MARVEL MASTERWORKS®

BY STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

WITH STEVE DITKO

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MARVEL

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THE HULK
By—
Stan Lee + J. KIRBY
HALF-MAN, HALF-MONSTER, THE MIGHTY HULK THUNDERS OUT OF THE NIGHT TO TAKE HIS PLACE AMONG THE MOST AMAZING CHARACTERS OF ALL TIME!
PART 1
"THE COMING OF THE HULK"

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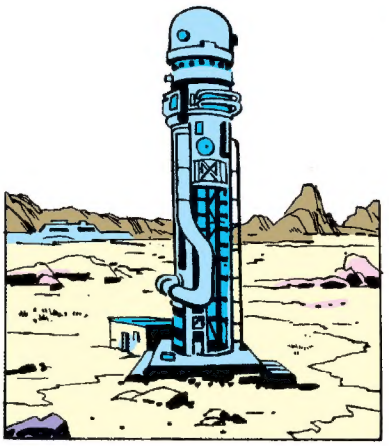
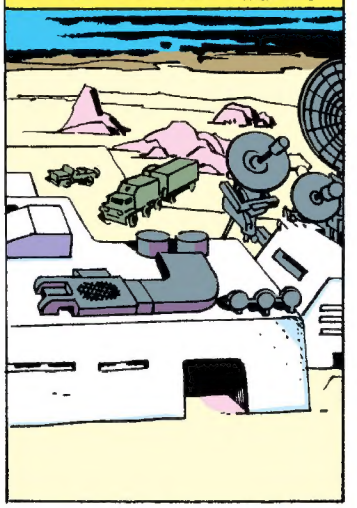
ALONE IN THE DESERT STANDS THE MOST AWESOME WEAPON EVER CREATED BY MAN--*THE INCREDIBLE G-BOMB!*



MILES AWAY, BEHIND SOLID CONCRETE BUNKERS, A NERVOUS SCIENTIFIC TASK FORCE WAITS FOR THE GAMMA-BOMB'S FIRST AWESOME TEST FIRING!



AND NONE IS MORE TENSE, MORE WORRIED, THAN DR. BRUCE BANNER, THE MAN WHOSE GENIUS CREATED THE G-BOMB!

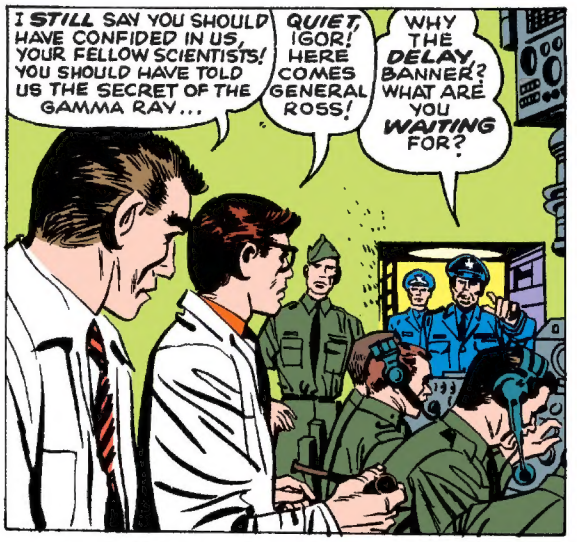
A FEW SECONDS MORE AND WE'LL KNOW WHETHER WE HAVE SUCCEEDED OR NOT!

I WAS AGAINST IT FROM THE START, BANNER, AND I STILL *AM!* IT IS *TOO DANGEROUS!*

I *STILL* SAY YOU SHOULD HAVE CONFIDED IN US, YOUR FELLOW SCIENTISTS! YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD US THE SECRET OF THE GAMMA RAY...

QUIET, IGOR! HERE COMES GENERAL ROSS!

WHY THE *DELAY,* BANNER? WHAT ARE YOU *WAITING* FOR?



MY MEN HAVE BEEN STATIONED HERE FOR WEEKS, WASTING TIME BECAUSE OF YOUR INFERNAL DELAYS! ARE YOU GOING TO TEST THAT BLAMED BOMB OR *NOT?*

OF COURSE, GENERAL! IT'S JUST THAT I MUST BE SURE EVERY PRECAUTION HAS BEEN TAKEN! WE ARE TAMPERING WITH POWERFUL FORCES!

POWERFUL FORCES! *BAH!!* A BOMB IS A BOMB! THE TROUBLE WITH *YOU* IS YOU'RE A *MILKSOP!* YOU'VE GOT NO *GUTS!*

THEY SHOULD HAVE PUT *ME* IN CHARGE OF THIS TEST! BY THUNDER, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN *DONE* BY NOW!

OH DADDY, DON'T BE SO UNFAIR! DR. BRUCE BANNER IS ONE OF OUR MOST FAMOUS SCIENTISTS! I'M *SURE* HE KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING!

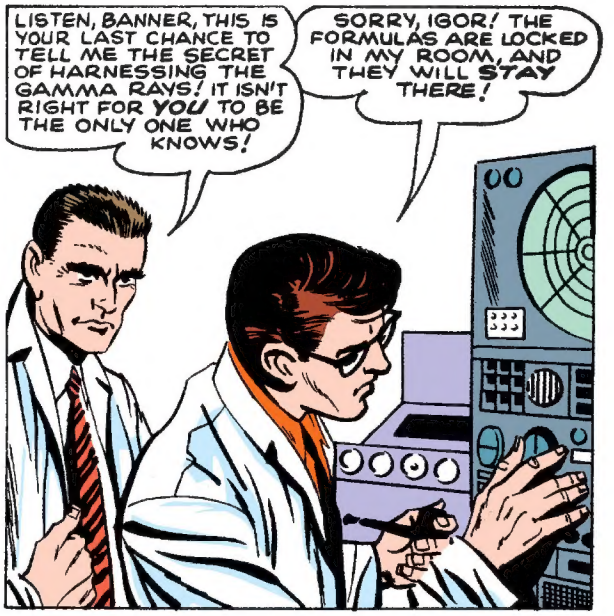
YOU KEEP OUT OF THIS, BETTY! THIS IS *MAN TALK!*

DON'T MIND DAD, DR. BANNER! EVER SINCE HE WAS NICKNAMED "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS, HE'S TRIED TO LIVE UP TO IT!

HRMMPHH!

THANK YOU, MISS ROSS!

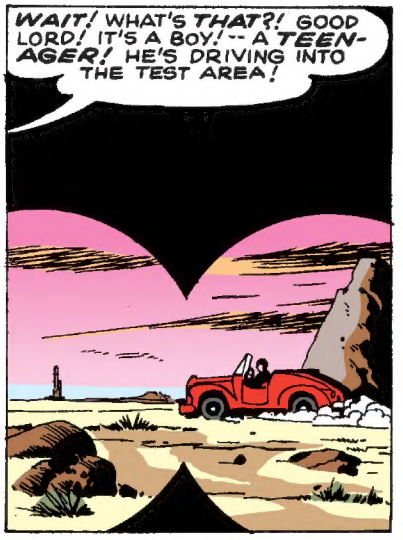
AND NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, IT'S TIME FOR THE FINAL COUNTDOWN!
GOOD LUCK, DR. BANNER!
IT'S DING-DONG WELL ABOUT TIME!


LISTEN, BANNER, THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO TELL ME THE SECRET OF HARNESSING THE GAMMA RAYS! IT ISN'T RIGHT FOR YOU TO BE THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS!
SORRY, IGOR! THE FORMULAS ARE LOCKED IN MY ROOM, AND THEY WILL STAY THERE!

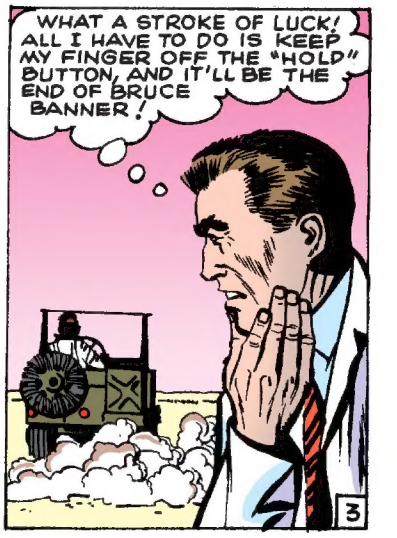
YOU FOOL! NOBODY HAS CHECKED YOUR WORK! IF YOU'VE MADE AN ERROR, YOU MIGHT BLOW UP HALF THE CONTINENT!! I OUGHTTA--
I DON'T MAKE ERRORS, IGOR!

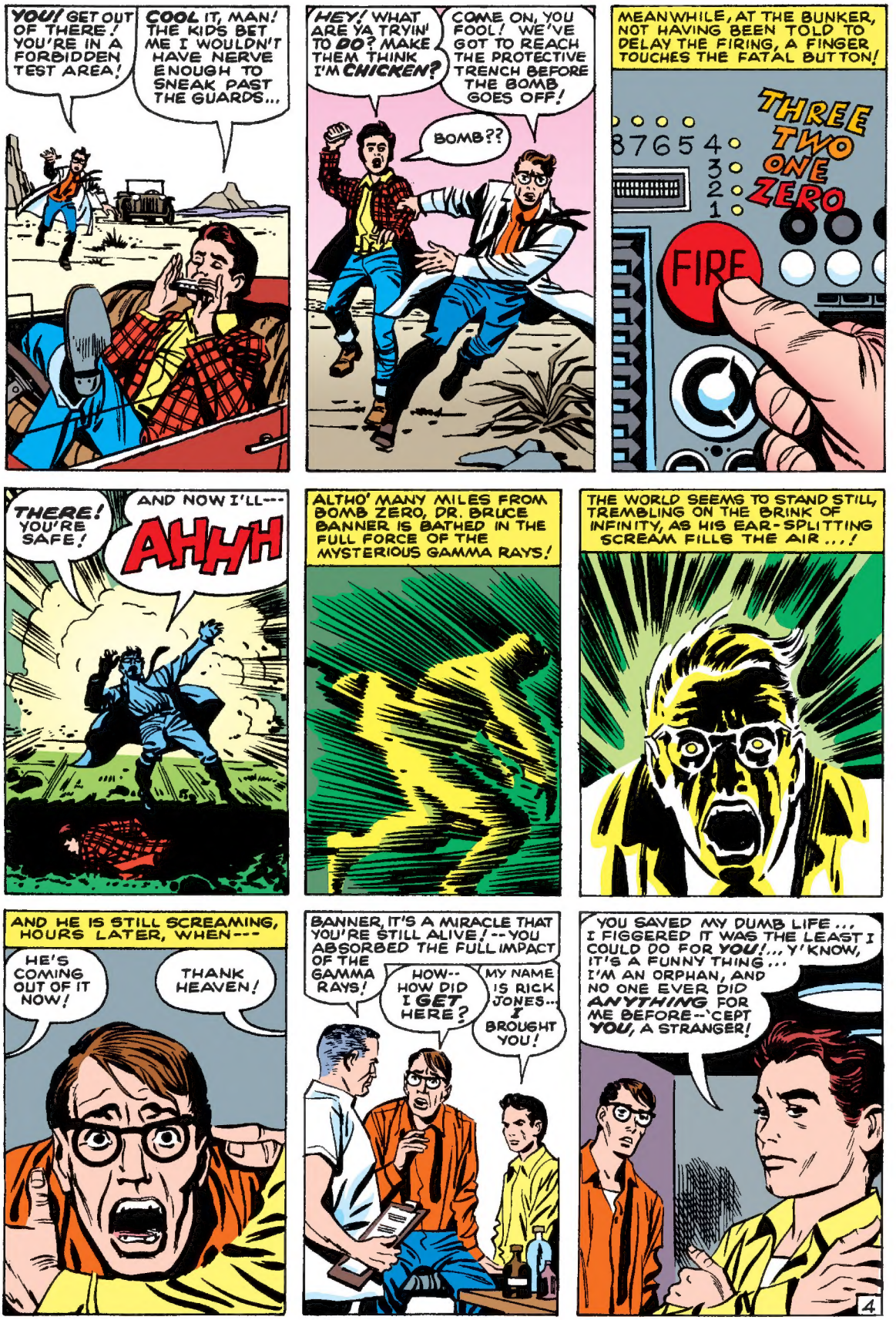
DR. BANNER! THE COUNT-DOWN HAS BEGUN!
I'LL TALK TO YOU LATER, IGOR! YOU KNOW HOW I DETEST MEN WHO THINK WITH THEIR FISTS!

IN A FEW SECONDS WE WILL FINALLY LEARN WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE POWERFUL GAMMA RAYS ARE RELEASED!


WAIT! WHAT'S THAT?! GOOD LORD! IT'S A BOY! -- A TEEN-AGER! HE'S DRIVING INTO THE TEST AREA!

IGOR! DELAY THE COUNTDOWN UNTIL I CAN GET TO THAT BOY! HURRY, MAN! EVERY SECOND COUNTS!
SURE...

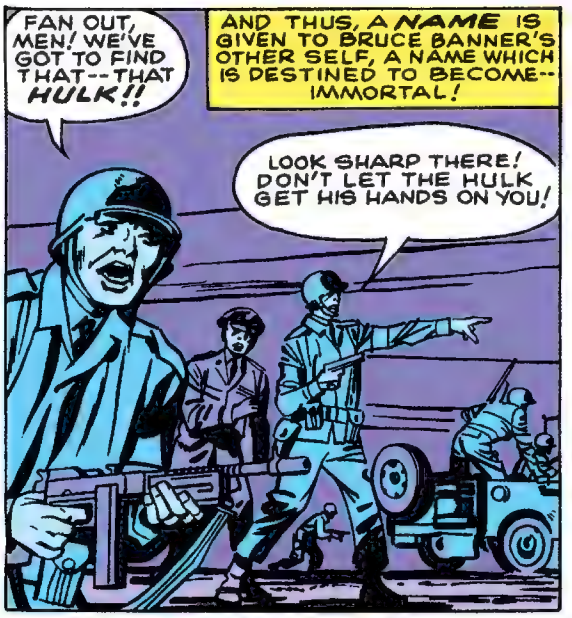

WHAT A STROKE OF LUCK! ALL I HAVE TO DO IS KEEP MY FINGER OFF THE "HOLD" BUTTON, AND IT'LL BE THE END OF BRUCE BANNER!
3

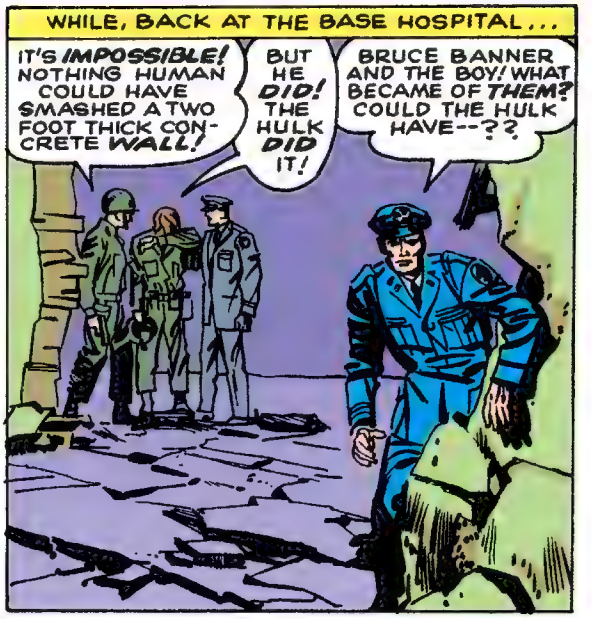

YOU! GET OUT OF THERE! YOU'RE IN A FORBIDDEN TEST AREA!
COOL IT, MAN! THE KIDS BET ME I WOULDN'T HAVE NERVE ENOUGH TO SNEAK PAST THE GUARDS...
HEY! WHAT ARE YA TRYIN' TO DO? MAKE THEM THINK I'M CHICKEN?
COME ON, YOU FOOL! WE'VE GOT TO REACH THE PROTECTIVE TRENCH BEFORE THE BOMB GOES OFF!
BOMB??
MEANWHILE, AT THE BUNKER, NOT HAVING BEEN TOLD TO DELAY THE FIRING, A FINGER TOUCHES THE FATAL BUTTON!
THREE
TWO
ONE
ZERO
FIRE
THERE! YOU'RE SAFE!
AND NOW I'LL---
AHHH
ALTHO' MANY MILES FROM BOMB ZERO, DR. BRUCE BANNER IS BATHED IN THE FULL FORCE OF THE MYSTERIOUS GAMMA RAYS!
THE WORLD SEEMS TO STAND STILL, TREMBLING ON THE BRINK OF INFINITY, AS HIS EAR-SPLITTING SCREAM FILLS THE AIR...!
AND HE IS STILL SCREAMING, HOURS LATER, WHEN---
HE'S COMING OUT OF IT NOW!
THANK HEAVEN!
BANNER, IT'S A MIRACLE THAT YOU'RE STILL ALIVE! --YOU ABSORBED THE FULL IMPACT OF THE GAMMA RAYS!
HOW-- HOW DID I GET HERE?
MY NAME IS RICK JONES... I BROUGHT YOU!
YOU SAVED MY DUMB LIFE... I FIGGERED IT WAS THE LEAST I COULD DO FOR YOU!... Y'KNOW, IT'S A FUNNY THING... I'M AN ORPHAN, AND NO ONE EVER DID ANYTHING FOR ME BEFORE--'CEPT YOU, A STRANGER!

IT'S GETTIN' DARK OUT! HOW LONG THEY GONNA KEEP US HERE, DOC?
I DON'T KNOW! I DON'T KNOW!! THEY MUST BE WAITING-- FOR ME TO DIE! IT ISN'T POSSIBLE TO TAKE SO MUCH GAMMA RADIATION, AND NOT HAVE SOMETHING HAPPEN!
I--I'M BEGINNING TO FEEL STRANGE! MY HEAD IS THROBBING! THIS MUST BE--THE END...
THE WHOLE WORLD'S GOING BATTY! EVEN THIS KOOKIE RADIO-- IT WON'T PLAY! ALL IT GIVES OUT WITH IS STATIC!
CLICK--
CLICK--
THAT'S NO RADIO! IT'S A GEIGER COUNTER!
IT MEASURES RADIATION! LISTEN TO IT! IT--IT'S GOING WILD!
CLICK-CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
IT'S GETTING LOUDER--AND LOUDER!!--FASTER AND FASTER!! WHAT'S HAPPENING??
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
WHAT IS HAPPENING ???
ARGHH
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
HEY! LOOK AT YOU! YOU--CHANGED!
GET OUT OF MY WAY, INSECT!
5

WHERE AM I? WHY AM I LOCKED IN HERE?
I WANT TO GET OUT!
HOLY COW! HE'S BREAKIN' DOWN THE WALL LIKE IT WAS CARDBOARD!
OUT!!
HEY, SARGE! LOOK--AHEAD! WHAT'S THAT?
MEN! MORE LITTLE MEN!!
I DUNNO! BUT IF HE DOESN'T STOP, WE'LL HIT 'IM!
AS THE STUNNED ENLISTED MEN PICK THEMSELVES UP FROM THE WRECKAGE, THE MIGHTY THING THAT WAS ONCE BRUCE BANNER TURNS, AND---
HAVE TO GO!
HAVE TO GET AWAY-- TO HIDE...
LIKE A WOUNDED BEHEMOTH, THE MAN-MONSTER STORMS OFF, INTO THE WAITING NIGHT...
WAIT!! WAIT FOR ME!
ONE LONE FIGURE FOLLOWS HIM-- AS A LEGEND IS BORN!
YOU SAVED MY LIFE! YOU NEED ME NOW-- WAIT!! I'M GOIN' WITH YOU!
6

PART 2
THE HULK STRIKES!
Stan Lee + J. KIRBY
LIKE A SILENT DREADNAUGHT, THE HULKING THING THAT WAS ONCE BRUCE BANNER CROUCHES IN THE SHADOWS, AS THE PURSUING TROOPS RUSH BY...
MUSTN'T LET THEM FIND ME . . .
V-709
7

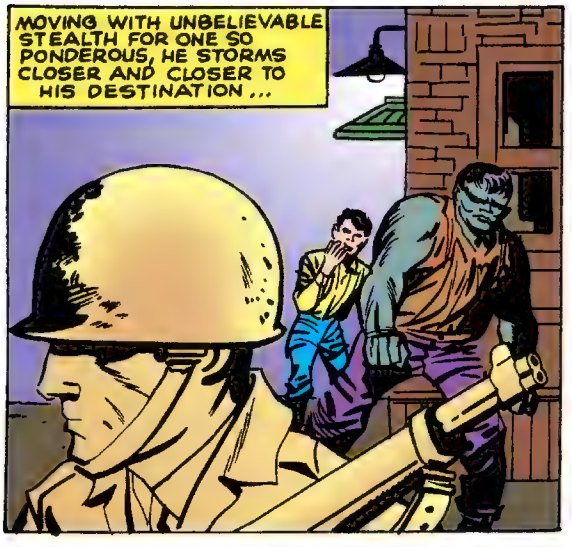

FAN OUT, MEN! WE'VE GOT TO FIND THAT--THAT HULK!!
AND THUS, A NAME IS GIVEN TO BRUCE BANNER'S OTHER SELF, A NAME WHICH IS DESTINED TO BECOME--IMMORTAL!
LOOK SHARP THERE! DON'T LET THE HULK GET HIS HANDS ON YOU!

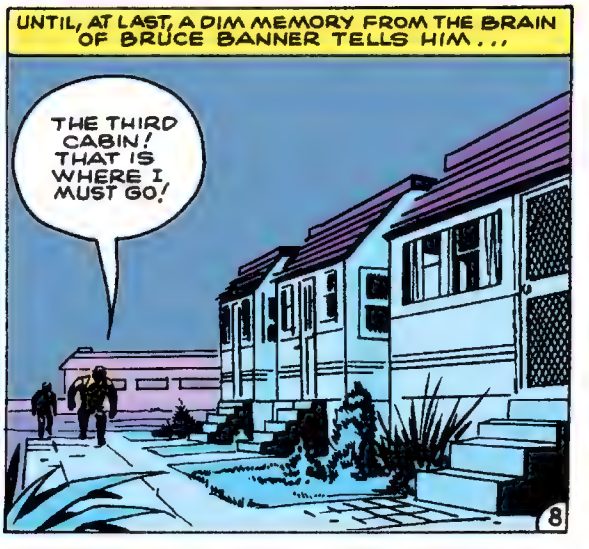

WHILE, BACK AT THE BASE HOSPITAL...
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! NOTHING HUMAN COULD HAVE SMASHED A TWO FOOT THICK CONCRETE WALL!
BUT HE DID! THE HULK DID IT!
BRUCE BANNER AND THE BOY! WHAT BECAME OF THEM? COULD THE HULK HAVE--??

BUT WHO COULD EVER GUESS THE INCREDIBLE TRUTH? WHO COULD SUSPECT THAT BRUCE BANNER IS... THE HULK!!!
WH-WHERE IS HE HEADED FOR?
HAVE TO KEEP MOVING...

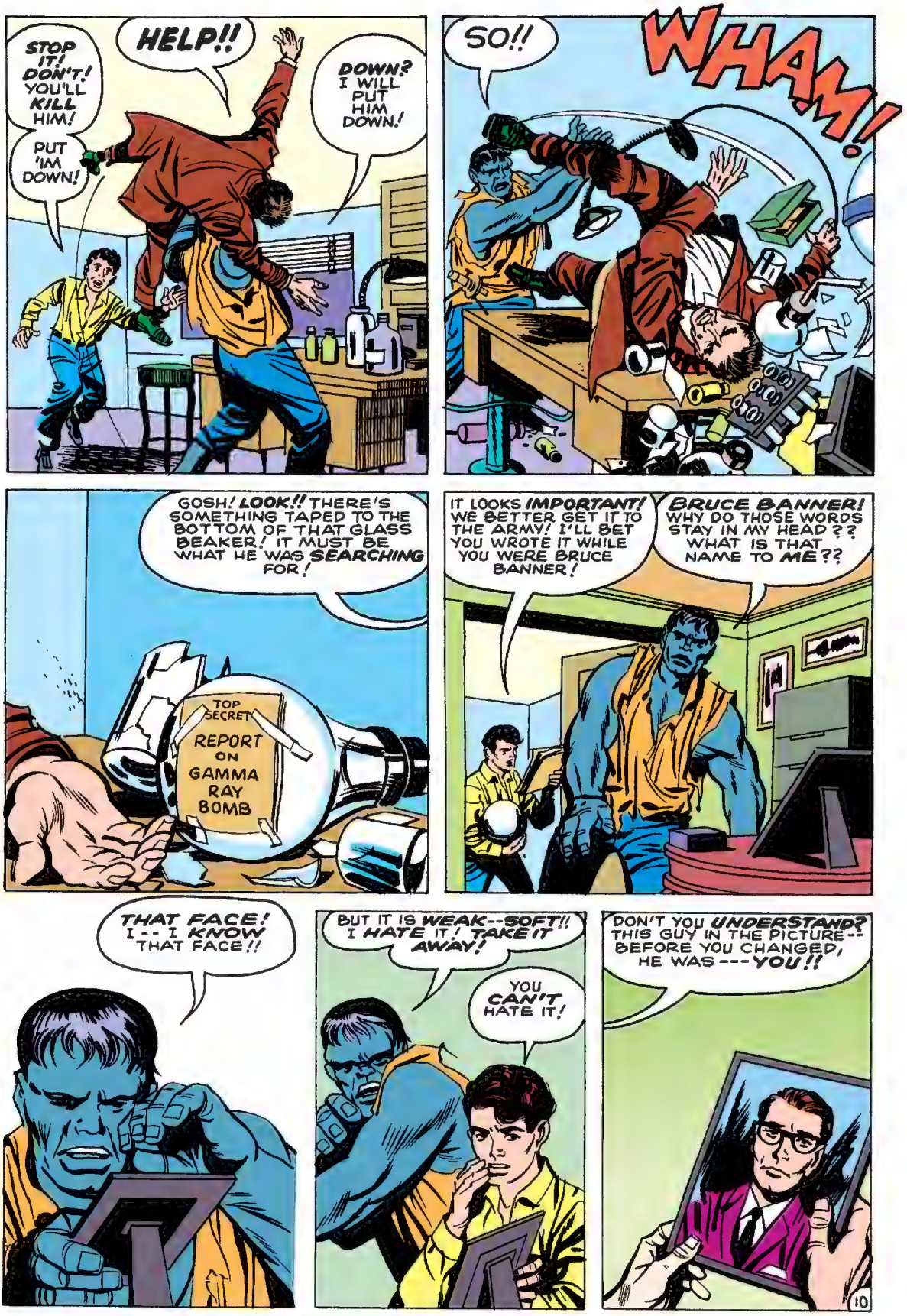
...HAVE TO REACH HOME! FORMULA INSIDE HOME! MUST GET FORMULA!!

DRIVEN BY SHEER INSTINCT, THE PART OF THE HULK WHICH IS STILL BRUCE BANNER HEADS FOR A SMALL COTTAGE, SMASHING ALL OBSTACLES IN HIS PATH!


MOVING WITH UNBELIEVABLE STEALTH FOR ONE SO PONDEROUS, HE STORMS CLOSER AND CLOSER TO HIS DESTINATION...


UNTIL, AT LAST, A DIM MEMORY FROM THE BRAIN OF BRUCE BANNER TELLS HIM...
THE THIRD CABIN! THAT IS WHERE I MUST GO!

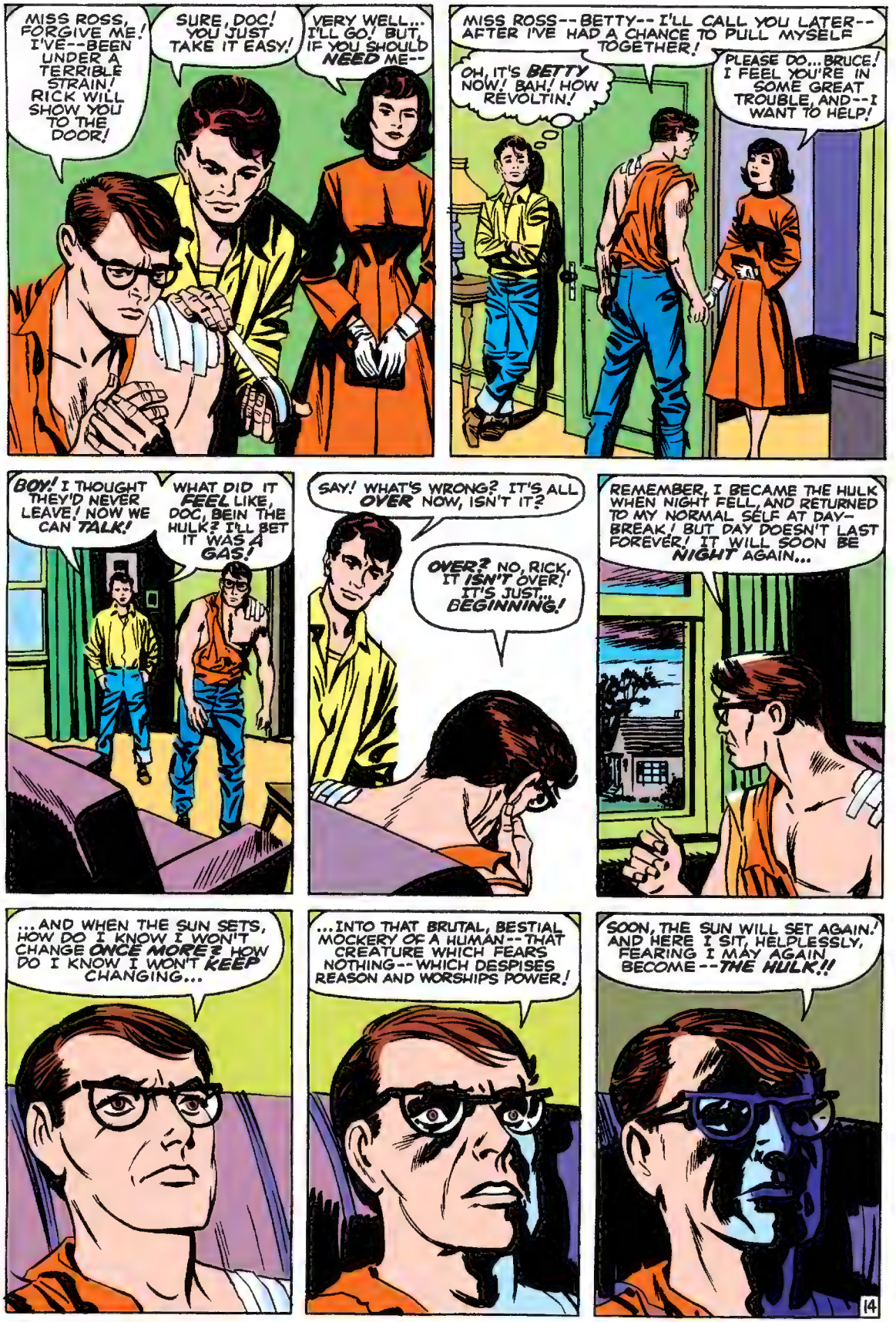
BUT, WITHIN THE CABIN, THE MAN CALLED IGOR IS SO INTENT UPON A SECRET TASK, THAT HE DOESN'T HEAR THE MUFFLED FOOTSTEPS DRAWING NEARER AND NEARER...
THE GAMMA RAY FORMULA MUST BE HERE SOMEWHERE!
AND THEN...
AN INTRUDER! WELL, YOU WILL NOT LIVE TO REPORT IGOR TO THE SECURITY POLICE!
WHA--WHAT ARE YOU?? I HAVE PUT A .38 SLUG IN YOUR SHOULDER, AND STILL YOU ADVANCE!!
YOU-- YOU DID NOT EVEN FEEL THE SHOT!
NO! STAY BACK!! DON'T-- DON'T!!
YOU WILL SHOOT ME NO MORE!
SO! THIS IS WHAT THE PUNY HUMANS FEAR!
AND NOW---
NO! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! YOU--YOU AREN'T HUMAN
HUMAN?? WHY SHOULD I WANT TO BE HUMAN?!?


STOP IT! DON'T! YOU'LL KILL HIM!
HELP!!
PUT 'IM DOWN!
DOWN? I WILL PUT HIM DOWN!
SO!!
WHAM!
GOSH! LOOK!! THERE'S SOMETHING TAPED TO THE BOTTOM OF THAT GLASS BEAKER! IT MUST BE WHAT HE WAS SEARCHING FOR!
TOP SECRET
REPORT ON GAMMA RAY BOMB
IT LOOKS IMPORTANT! WE BETTER GET IT TO THE ARMY! I'LL BET YOU WROTE IT WHILE YOU WERE BRUCE BANNER!
BRUCE BANNER! WHY DO THOSE WORDS STAY IN MY HEAD?? WHAT IS THAT NAME TO ME??
THAT FACE! I-- I KNOW THAT FACE!!
BUT IT IS WEAK--SOFT!! I HATE IT! TAKE IT AWAY!
YOU CAN'T HATE IT!
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? THIS GUY IN THE PICTURE-- BEFORE YOU CHANGED, HE WAS ---YOU!!
10

I--I SEEM TO REMEMBER NOW! IT WAS THE BOMB! THE GAMMA RAYS! THEY TURNED ME INTO--THIS--WHEN DARKNESS FELL!
IT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED TO ME IF YOU HADN'T SAVED ME! THAT'S WHY I'M STAYIN' WITH YOU!
FOOL! I AM GLAD IT HAPPENED!! I'D RATHER BE ME, THAN THAT PUNY WEAKLING IN THE PICTURE!
I DON'T WANT YOU WITH ME! I DON'T NEED YOU! I DON'T NEED ANYBODY! WITH MY STRENGTH--MY POWER--THE WORLD IS MINE!
AS FOR YOU--YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS WHO I REALLY AM!
WHA--WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
BUT, AT THAT VERY INSTANT, THE FIRST RAYS OF DAWN APPEAR! AND WITH THEM--
MY HEAD!!
MY BRAIN--IT'S ON FIRE!
WHAT IS HAPPENING TO ME? I--I'M CHANGING!!
CHANGING---
IT--IT FEELS AS THOUGH A VEIL HAS LIFTED--I CAN THINK AGAIN!
IT'S OVER! THE NIGHTMARE IS OVER!
GOSH! YOU--YOU'RE DOCTOR BRUCE BANNER AGAIN!
BUT, ALAS, THE NIGHTMARE OF BRUCE BANNER IS NOT YET OVER! IT MAY NEVER BE OVER AGAIN!
OPEN UP IN THERE!
THIS IS THE POLICE!
11

PART 3
THE SEARCH FOR THE HULK
STAN LEE + J. KIRBY
WHERE IS HE? WHERE'S THE HULK?
HE'S GOT TO BE IN HERE SOME-WHERE!
DOCTOR BANNER!
THE HULK?
THEY MUST MEAN YOU, DOC!
MP
EMPTY!!
BUT WE TRAILED HIM HERE! WE KNOW HE CAME IN HERE!
LOOK, CAPTAIN! IT'S IGOR, THE SPY WE'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR!
THE HULK!! ...THE HULK--
GET HIM TO A DOCTOR! HE MUST HAVE BEEN IN LEAGUE WITH THE HULK!
12

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, DOCTOR BANNER? WHY DID YOU LEAVE THE HOSPITAL? HOW DID YOU GET THAT SHOULDER WOUND?
HOW DO WE KNOW YOU'RE NOT MIXED UP IN THIS?
ARE YOU KIDDIN'?! WHAT DO YOU THINK HE IS... THE HULK?!
CAPTAIN, WE WERE IN THE JEEP WHICH HIT THE HULK! WE GOT A GOOD LOOK AT HIM!
HE WAS NOTHING LIKE DR. BANNER!
HE WAS HUGE, POWERFUL! IN FACT, I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF HE WAS A GIANT GORILLA THAT ESCAPED FROM SOME ZOO!
NO, HE WAS MORE LIKE A BIG BEAR, DRESSED IN TATTERS! PROBABLY ESCAPED FROM A CIRCUS SOMEWHERE!
PERSONALLY, I THINK YOU JOKERS WERE SEEIN' THINGS! HE WAS JUST A LITTLE CUB SCOUT ON PATROL!
IT'S FORTUNATE THAT IGOR DID NOT GET YOUR GAMMA BOMB FORMULA! I'LL TAKE IT FOR SAFE-KEEPING!
MINUTES LATER, AFTER THE TROOPS HAVE LEFT TO CONTINUE THEIR VAIN SEARCH FOR THE HULK...
DOCTOR BANNER, I RETURNED TO APOLOGIZE FOR MY FATHER'S REMARKS TO YOU! BUT I NEVER EXPECTED TO FIND...
TO FIND ME IN THE MIDDLE OF A SEARCH FOR A-- MONSTER?
NEITHER DID I! NEITHER -SOB- DID I!
YOU'RE ILL! YOU NEED MEDICAL CARE!
NO HE DOESN'T LADY! HE JUST NEEDS A LITTLE PEACE AND QUIET, THAT'S ALL!
13


MISS ROSS, FORGIVE ME! I'VE--BEEN UNDER A TERRIBLE STRAIN! RICK WILL SHOW YOU TO THE DOOR!
SURE, DOC! YOU JUST TAKE IT EASY!
VERY WELL... I'LL GO! BUT, IF YOU SHOULD NEED ME--
MISS ROSS--BETTY--I'LL CALL YOU LATER--AFTER I'VE HAD A CHANCE TO PULL MYSELF TOGETHER!
OH, IT'S BETTY NOW! BAH! HOW REVOLTIN!
PLEASE DO...BRUCE! I FEEL YOU'RE IN SOME GREAT TROUBLE, AND--I WANT TO HELP!
BOY! I THOUGHT THEY'D NEVER LEAVE! NOW WE CAN TALK!
WHAT DID IT FEEL LIKE, DOC, BEIN THE HULK? I'LL BET IT WAS A GAS!
SAY! WHAT'S WRONG? IT'S ALL OVER NOW, ISN'T IT?
OVER? NO, RICK, IT ISN'T OVER! IT'S JUST... BEGINNING!
REMEMBER, I BECAME THE HULK WHEN NIGHT FELL, AND RETURNED TO MY NORMAL SELF AT DAY-BREAK! BUT DAY DOESN'T LAST FOREVER! IT WILL SOON BE NIGHT AGAIN...
...AND WHEN THE SUN SETS, HOW DO I KNOW I WON'T CHANGE ONCE MORE? HOW DO I KNOW I WON'T KEEP CHANGING...
...INTO THAT BRUTAL, BESTIAL MOCKERY OF A HUMAN--THAT CREATURE WHICH FEARS NOTHING--WHICH DESPISES REASON AND WORSHIPS POWER!
SOON, THE SUN WILL SET AGAIN! AND HERE I SIT, HELPLESSLY, FEARING I MAY AGAIN BECOME--THE HULK!!

THE HULK
"ENTER... THE GARGOYLE!"
PART 4
STAN LEE + J. KIRBY
LET US LEAVE BRUCE BANNER AND HIS YOUNG FRIEND RICK FOR A MOMENT, AND TURN OUR ATTENTION TO THE RED SPY KNOWN AS IGOR AS HE BROODS DARKLY IN HIS CELL...
THE AMERICAN FOOLS THINK I AM DEFEATED! BUT NOT YET!! NO--THEY SHALL SOON LEARN THAT EVEN IN A CELL, IGOR CAN BE DANGEROUS!
FOR THEY DO NOT SUSPECT THAT PASTED ONTO MY THUMB-NAIL IS A SUB-MINIATURE TRANSISTOR SHORT WAVE SENDING SET!
A SET WITH WHICH I SHALL NOW SEND A SECRET MESSAGE TO BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN!
AND, THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY...
COMRADE!! I AM RECEIVING A CODE MESSAGE FROM IGOR!
QUICK! LET ME HAVE IT!
15

HMMMM! THIS IS HIGH-PRIORITY! I MUST GIVE IT TO... THE GARGOYLE!
BUT I DARE NOT FACE THE TERRIFYING ONE!! AHH! I HAVE THE ANSWER!

WAIT! WHY DO YOU GIVE ME THIS MESSAGE?? WHY DO YOU NOT BRING IT TO THE GARGOYLE?
YOU ARE MY SUPERIOR, COMRADE! IT IS FOR YOU TO BRING IT!

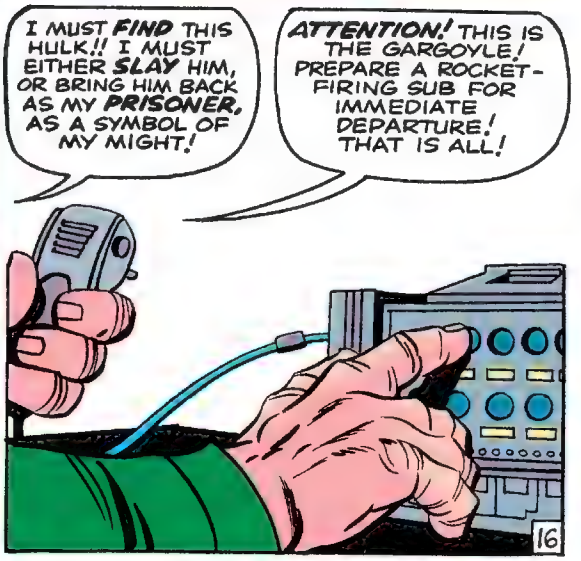
I CANNOT BEAR TO FACE THE GARGOYLE! THERE IS BUT ONE THING TO DO!
COMRADE! DO NOT ASK ME TO DO THIS! I BEG YOU--
DO IT!! IT IS AN ORDER!

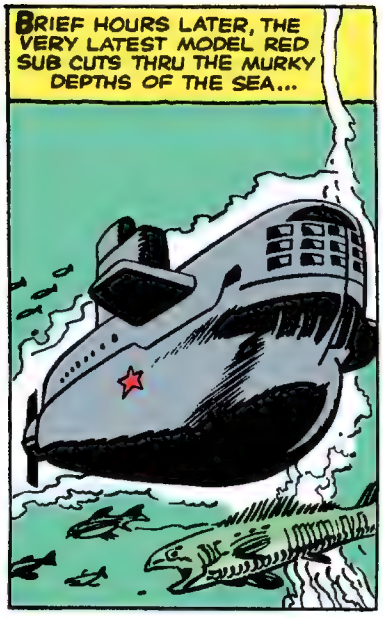
THE GARGOYLE! THE MOST FEARED MAN IN ALL OF ASIA!!
WHO IS OUTSIDE MY DOOR?? SPEAK!! OR FACE THE GARGOYLE'S WRATH!!

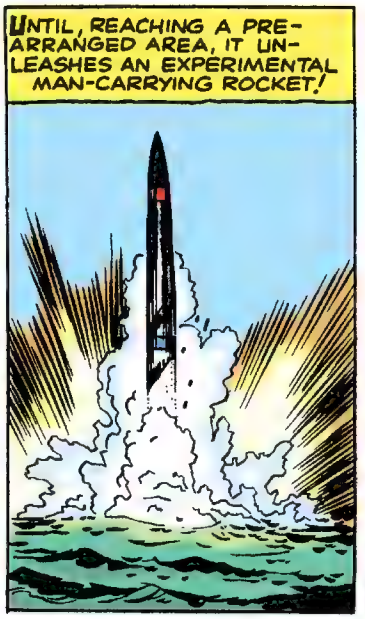
I-- I HAVE A MESSAGE FOR YOU, COMRADE GARGOYLE! THAT IS ALL!

THE COWARDLY WEAKLINGS DARE NOT FACE ME! BUT THAT IS HOW I WANT IT!!
LET THEM FEAR ME! SOME DAY ALL THE WORLD WILL TREMBLE BEFORE THE GARGOYLE!

THIS MESSAGE! IT IS UNBELIEVABLE! IN AMERICA, THERE EXISTS A CREATURE CALLED THE HULK, WHOSE POWER ALMOST MATCHES MINE!


I MUST FIND THIS HULK!! I MUST EITHER SLAY HIM, OR BRING HIM BACK AS MY PRISONER, AS A SYMBOL OF MY MIGHT!
ATTENTION! THIS IS THE GARGOYLE! PREPARE A ROCKET-FIRING SUB FOR IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE! THAT IS ALL!


BRIEF HOURS LATER, THE VERY LATEST MODEL RED SUB CUTS THRU THE MURKY DEPTHS OF THE SEA...

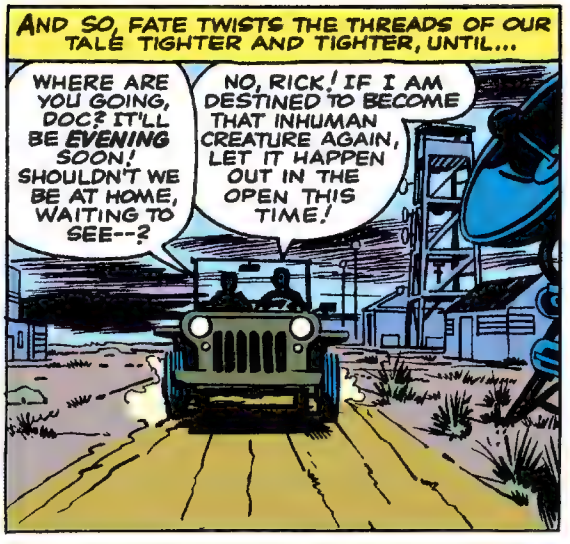

UNTIL, REACHING A PRE-ARRANGED AREA, IT UN-LEASHES AN EXPERIMENTAL MAN-CARRYING ROCKET!

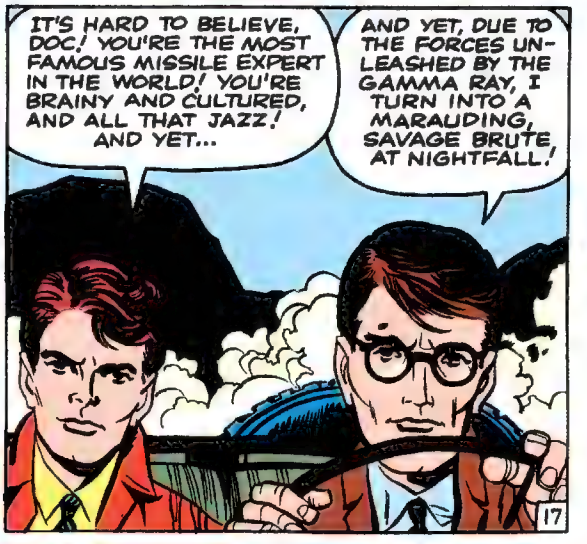
WHAT'S THAT?? OUR RADAR HAS TRACKED AN UNIDENTIFIED MISSILE HEADING THIS WAY??!
UNLEASH OUR HUNTER MISSILES!

WITHIN SECONDS, AMERICA'S MIGHTY DEFENSE STRUCTURE UNLEASHES ITS FANTASTIC ARSENAL, AND...

THE MISSILE IS DESTROYED! BUT I HAVE LANDED AT MY DESTINATION SAFELY!

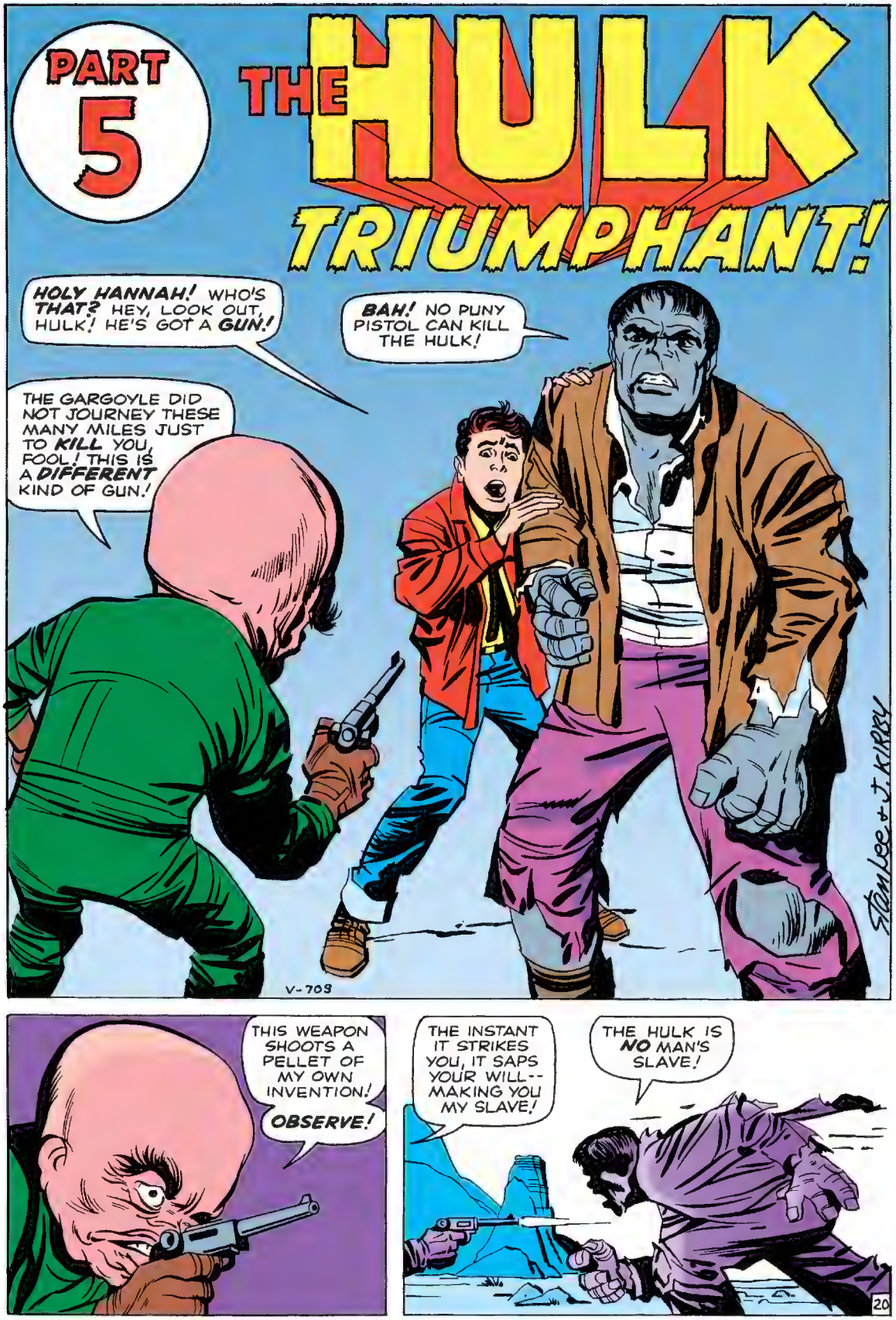
AND NOW... IT IS TIME FOR THE GARGOYLE TO MEET... THE HULK!


AND SO, FATE TWISTS THE THREADS OF OUR TALE TIGHTER AND TIGHTER, UNTIL...
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, DOC? IT'LL BE EVENING SOON! SHOULDN'T WE BE AT HOME, WAITING TO SEE--?
NO, RICK! IF I AM DESTINED TO BECOME THAT INHUMAN CREATURE AGAIN, LET IT HAPPEN OUT IN THE OPEN THIS TIME!


IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE, DOC! YOU'RE THE MOST FAMOUS MISSILE EXPERT IN THE WORLD! YOU'RE BRAINY AND CULTURED, AND ALL THAT JAZZ! AND YET...
AND YET, DUE TO THE FORCES UN-LEASHED BY THE GAMMA RAY, I TURN INTO A MARAUDING, SAVAGE BRUTE AT NIGHTFALL!

THAT'S WHY I GOTTA STAY WITH YOU, DOC.! WITHOUT ME AROUND, YOU MIGHT DO SOMETHING AWFUL! YOU MIGHT EVEN KILL SOMEONE DR.--DOC.!! YOUR HANDS!!
THEY'RE CHANGING! YOU'RE BECOMING THE HULK AGAIN!
JUST AS I FEARED! I CANNOT STOP IT!! IT--IT WILL HAPPEN EVERY EVENING!
DOC.!! KEEP YOUR HANDS ON THE WHEEL!! LOOK OUT!!
WHEEL? WHO CARES ABOUT THE WHEEL??
WHO CARES ABOUT... ANYTHING ?!!
THUD!
SLOWLY, PONDEROUSLY, FROM OUT OF THE WRECKAGE, A HEAD EMERGES! BUT, NOT THE SENSITIVE, CLEAN-CUT HEAD OF DR. BRUCE BANNER! NO-- THIS IS THE BRUTISH, MENACING HEAD OF--THE HULK!!
WHAT AM I DOING HERE? GOT TO GO! GO--WHERE??
OHH... MY HEAD!! WE-WE'RE LUCKY TO BE ALIVE!
I KNOW THIS COUNTRYSIDE! NEAR GENERAL ROSS'S HOUSE! BETTY LIVES THERE--BETTY!!
NO! WAIT! YOU CAN'T SEE BETTY! NOT LIKE THIS! STOP!
MY QUEST IS ENDED! IT IS HE! THE ONE I SEEK... THE HULK!
18

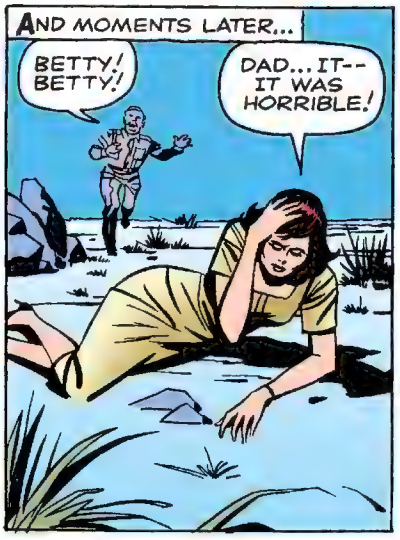
MEANWHILE, JUST A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY, BETTY ROSS IS LOST IN HER OWN DISTURBED MUSINGS...
I CAN'T GET BRUCE BANNER OUT OF MY MIND!!
SOMEHOW, I FEEL HE--NEEDS ME!
WHAT IS IT, GIRL? YOU'VE SEEMED TROUBLED ALL DAY!
OH, DAD... IF ONLY THINGS WERE AS SIMPLE AS IN YOUR DAY, WHEN A CAVALRY CHARGE, OR A SQUAD OF INFANTRYMEN COULD SOLVE ANYTHING!
BUT TODAY, WITH THE STRANGE, ALMOST SUPERNATURAL FORCES ALL AROUND US, I FEEL AS THOUGH WE'RE ON THE BRINK OF SOME FANTASTIC UNIMAGINABLE ADVENTURE!
HONEY, YOU JUST NEED A LITTLE FRESH AIR!
DAD'S RIGHT! PERHAPS A WALK IN THE CRISP NIGHT AIR WILL CLEAR MY HEAD--WILL DRIVE THE TROUBLED FACE OF BRUCE BANNER FROM MY THOUGHTS!
AND PERHAPS I CAN TELL MYSELF IT WAS ALL A DREAM--THERE IS NO HULK!
BUT THERE IS A HULK!! AND DON'T YOU EVER FORGET IT!!
OH--NO!
FAINTED!! BAH! JUST LIKE ALL WEAK, HELPLESS CREATURES!
HULK--LET GO OF HER!
YOU'VE GOT TO LEAVE HERE! IF YOU'RE FOUND THIS TIME, THEY'LL--
SHUT UP! NOBODY TELLS THE HULK!
YOU ARE WRONG, MONSTER! TURN AROUND! TURN AND FACE--THE GARGOYLE!
19


PART 5
THE HULK TRIUMPHANT!
HOLY HANNAH! WHO'S THAT? HEY, LOOK OUT, HULK! HE'S GOT A GUN!
BAH! NO PUNY PISTOL CAN KILL THE HULK!
THE GARGOYLE DID NOT JOURNEY THESE MANY MILES JUST TO KILL YOU, FOOL! THIS IS A DIFFERENT KIND OF GUN!
STAN LEE & J. KIRBY
V-703
THIS WEAPON SHOOTS A PELLET OF MY OWN INVENTION!
OBSERVE!
THE INSTANT IT STRIKES YOU, IT SAPS YOUR WILL--MAKING YOU MY SLAVE!
THE HULK IS NO MAN'S SLAVE!
20

HAH! THE GARGOYLE IS NEVER WRONG!
AND THOUGH YOU SEEM TOO UNIMPORTANT TO WASTE ANOTHER PELLET ON, I BELIEVE IN TAKING NO CHANCES!

IT IS DONE! BOTH OF YOU... RISE, AND FOLLOW ME!
RISE...

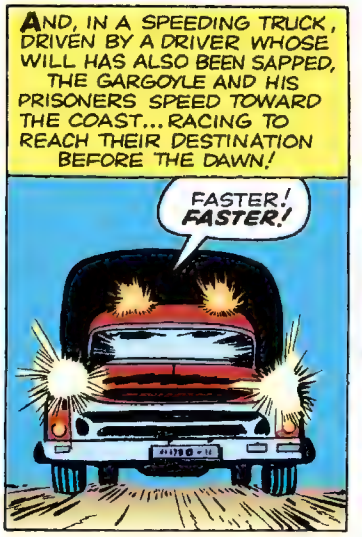
FORTUNATELY, IN THE EXCITEMENT OF THE MOMENT, THE GARGOYLE DOES NOT NOTICE THE UNCONSCIOUS GIRL LYING IN THE SHADOWS BEHIND HIS TWO HELPLESS PRISONERS!
HOW EASY IT IS FOR THE GARGOYLE TO BE VICTORIOUS!

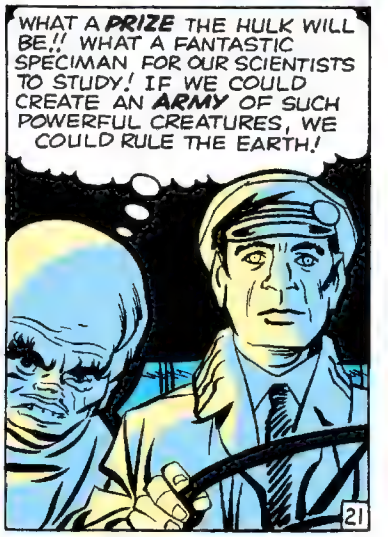

AND MOMENTS LATER...
BETTY! BETTY!
DAD... IT-- IT WAS HORRIBLE!

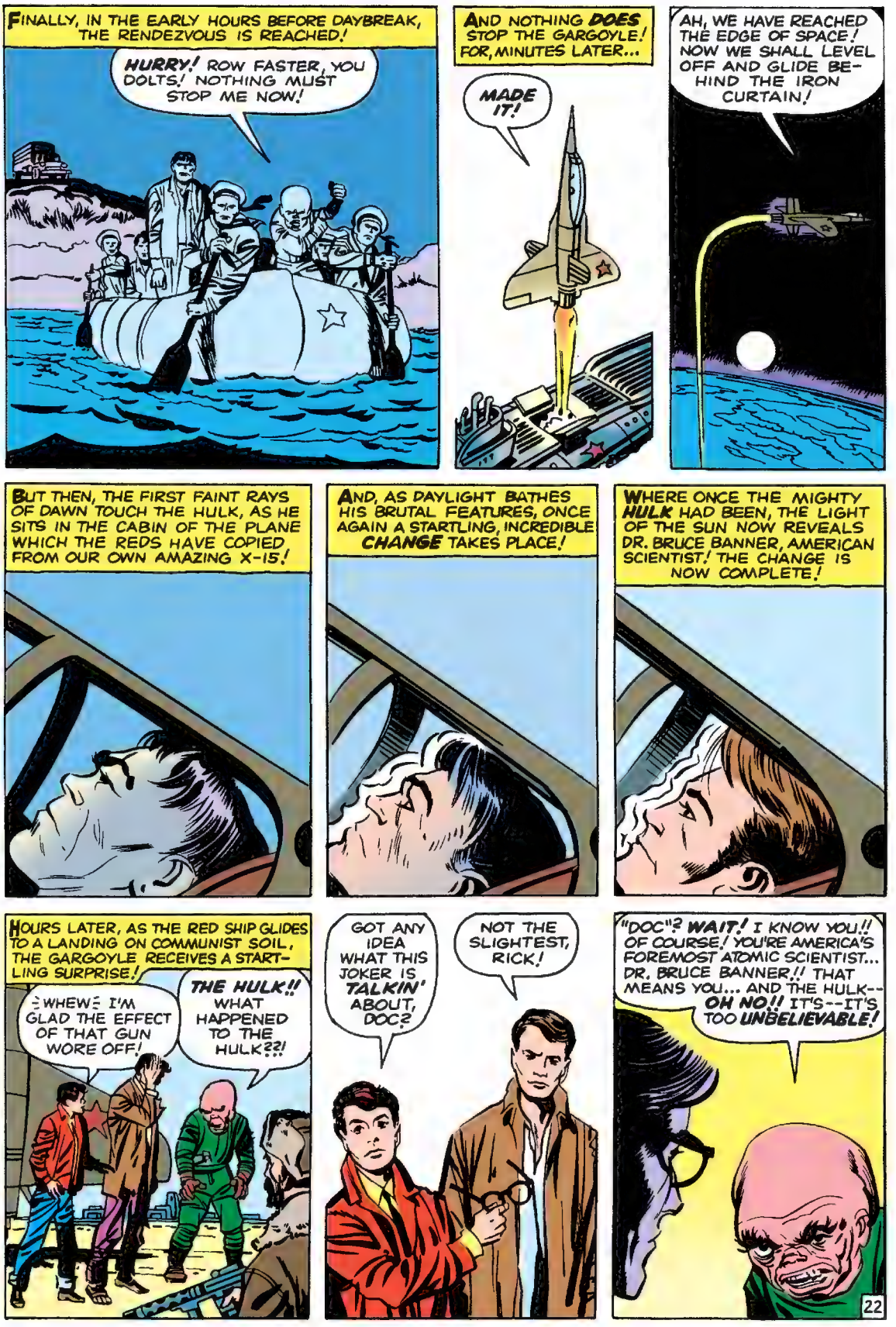
IT WAS THE HULK! HE CAME FROM OUT OF THE DARKNESS! HE--HE WAS TERRIFYING!
THERE, THERE, MY DEAR! YOU'RE SAFE NOW!

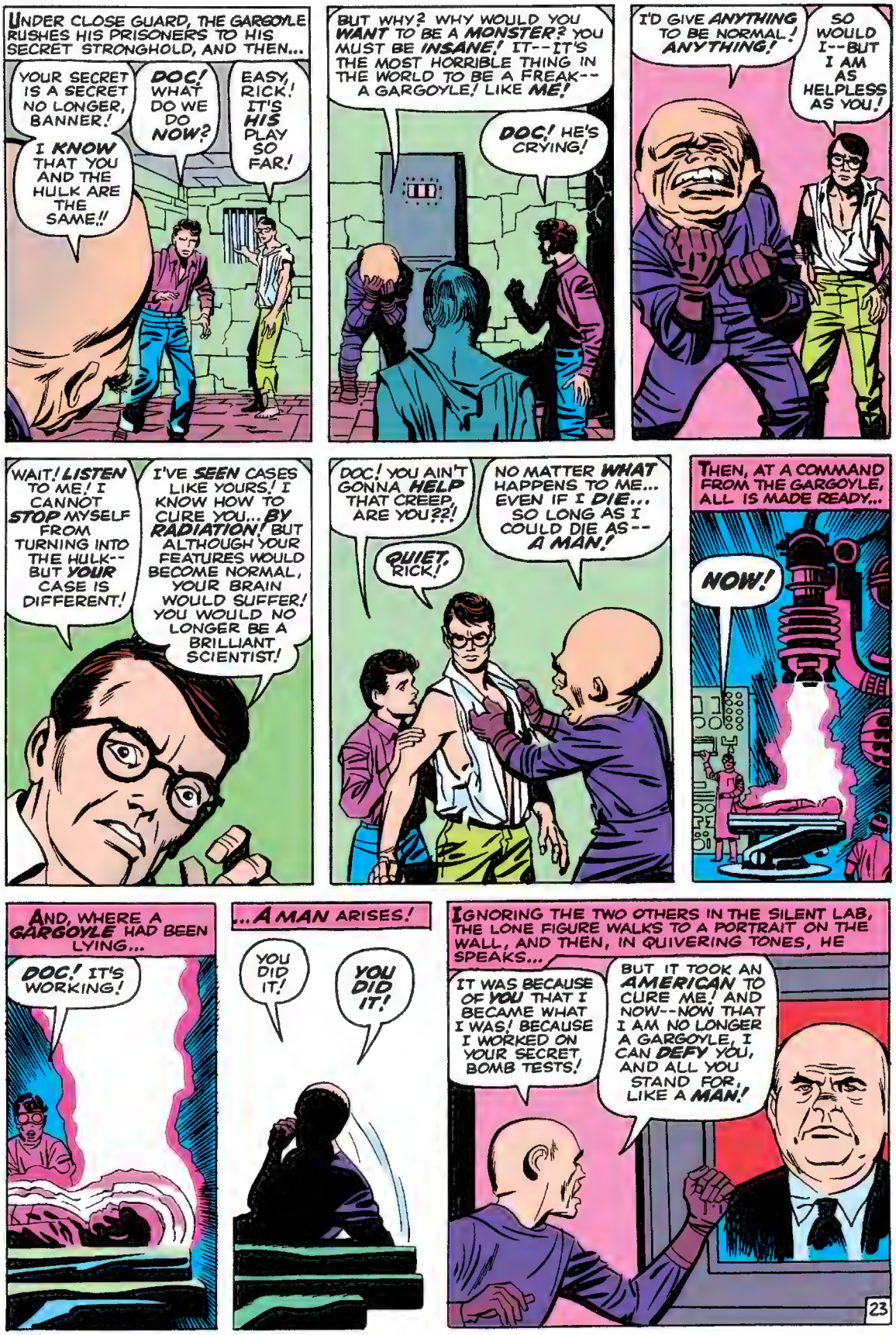
BUT WHERE DID HE GO? WHAT DID HE WANT? OR--OR DID I IMAGINE THE WHOLE THING?
I'LL FIND HIM, BETTY! I SWEAR TO YOU, MY CHILD, I'LL FIND HIM AND DESTROY HIM!

AND YET, IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING, THERE WAS SOMETHING... SOMETHING SAD ABOUT HIM!! ALMOST AS THOUGH HE WAS SEEKING... HELP!
I'LL FIND HIM! IF IT TAKES AN ETERNITY, I'LL FIND THAT MONSTER!

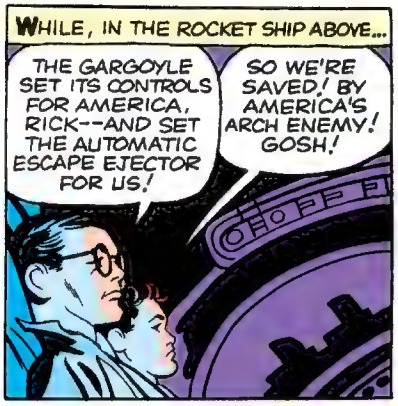

AND, IN A SPEEDING TRUCK, DRIVEN BY A DRIVER WHOSE WILL HAS ALSO BEEN SAPPED, THE GARGOYLE AND HIS PRISONERS SPEED TOWARD THE COAST... RACING TO REACH THEIR DESTINATION BEFORE THE DAWN!
FASTER! FASTER!

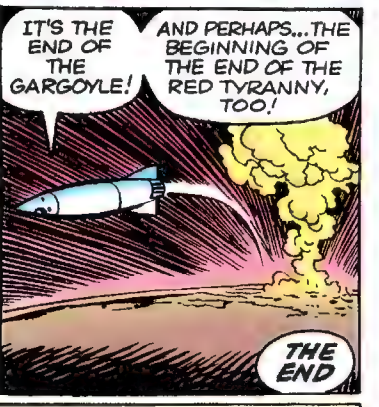

WHAT A PRIZE THE HULK WILL BE!! WHAT A FANTASTIC SPECIMAN FOR OUR SCIENTISTS TO STUDY! IF WE COULD CREATE AN ARMY OF SUCH POWERFUL CREATURES, WE COULD RULE THE EARTH!


FINALLY, IN THE EARLY HOURS BEFORE DAYBREAK, THE RENDEZVOUS IS REACHED!
HURRY! ROW FASTER, YOU DOLTS! NOTHING MUST STOP ME NOW!
AND NOTHING DOES STOP THE GARGOYLE! FOR, MINUTES LATER...
MADE IT!
AH, WE HAVE REACHED THE EDGE OF SPACE! NOW WE SHALL LEVEL OFF AND GLIDE BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN!
BUT THEN, THE FIRST FAINT RAYS OF DAWN TOUCH THE HULK, AS HE SITS IN THE CABIN OF THE PLANE WHICH THE REDS HAVE COPIED FROM OUR OWN AMAZING X-15!
AND, AS DAYLIGHT BATHES HIS BRUTAL FEATURES, ONCE AGAIN A STARTLING, INCREDIBLE CHANGE TAKES PLACE!
WHERE ONCE THE MIGHTY HULK HAD BEEN, THE LIGHT OF THE SUN NOW REVEALS DR. BRUCE BANNER, AMERICAN SCIENTIST! THE CHANGE IS NOW COMPLETE!
HOURS LATER, AS THE RED SHIP GLIDES TO A LANDING ON COMMUNIST SOIL, THE GARGOYLE RECEIVES A STARTLING SURPRISE!
WHEW! I'M GLAD THE EFFECT OF THAT GUN WORE OFF!
THE HULK!! WHAT HAPPENED TO THE HULK??!
GOT ANY IDEA WHAT THIS JOKER IS TALKIN' ABOUT, DOC?
NOT THE SLIGHTEST, RICK!
"DOC"? WAIT! I KNOW YOU!! OF COURSE! YOU'RE AMERICA'S FOREMOST ATOMIC SCIENTIST... DR. BRUCE BANNER!! THAT MEANS YOU... AND THE HULK--
OH NO!! IT'S--IT'S TOO UNBELIEVABLE!


UNDER CLOSE GUARD, THE GARGOYLE RUSHES HIS PRISONERS TO HIS SECRET STRONGHOLD, AND THEN...
YOUR SECRET IS A SECRET NO LONGER, BANNER!
I KNOW THAT YOU AND THE HULK ARE THE SAME!!
DOC! WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
EASY, RICK! IT'S HIS PLAY SO FAR!
BUT WHY? WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO BE A MONSTER? YOU MUST BE INSANE! IT--IT'S THE MOST HORRIBLE THING IN THE WORLD TO BE A FREAK--A GARGOYLE! LIKE ME!
DOC! HE'S CRYING!
I'D GIVE ANYTHING TO BE NORMAL! ANYTHING!
SO WOULD I--BUT I AM AS HELPLESS AS YOU!
WAIT! LISTEN TO ME! I CANNOT STOP MYSELF FROM TURNING INTO THE HULK--BUT YOUR CASE IS DIFFERENT!
I'VE SEEN CASES LIKE YOURS! I KNOW HOW TO CURE YOU... BY RADIATION! BUT ALTHOUGH YOUR FEATURES WOULD BECOME NORMAL, YOUR BRAIN WOULD SUFFER! YOU WOULD NO LONGER BE A BRILLIANT SCIENTIST!
DOC! YOU AIN'T GONNA HELP THAT CREEP, ARE YOU??!
QUIET, RICK!
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS TO ME... EVEN IF I DIE... SO LONG AS I COULD DIE AS--A MAN!
THEN, AT A COMMAND FROM THE GARGOYLE, ALL IS MADE READY...
NOW!
AND, WHERE A GARGOYLE HAD BEEN LYING...
DOC! IT'S WORKING!
...A MAN ARISES!
YOU DID IT!
YOU DID IT!
IGNORING THE TWO OTHERS IN THE SILENT LAB, THE LONE FIGURE WALKS TO A PORTRAIT ON THE WALL, AND THEN, IN QUIVERING TONES, HE SPEAKS...
IT WAS BECAUSE OF YOU THAT I BECAME WHAT I WAS! BECAUSE I WORKED ON YOUR SECRET BOMB TESTS!
BUT IT TOOK AN AMERICAN TO CURE ME! AND NOW--NOW THAT I AM NO LONGER A GARGOYLE, I CAN DEFY YOU, AND ALL YOU STAND FOR, LIKE A MAN!

BUT NOW, I AM A MAN AGAIN! NO LONGER BRILLIANT! NO LONGER A SCIENTIFIC GENIUS! MY WORK IS DONE, AND SO I SHALL DIE! BUT I SHALL DIE AS A MAN!
DON'T TRIGGER THAT SWITCH!


WHILE, IN THE ROCKET SHIP ABOVE...
THE GARGOYLE SET ITS CONTROLS FOR AMERICA, RICK--AND SET THE AUTOMATIC ESCAPE EJECTOR FOR US!
SO WE'RE SAVED! BY AMERICA'S ARCH ENEMY! GOSH!



YES, BRUCE BANNER AND RICK ARE SAFE, FOR NOW! BUT, IN A FEW HOURS IT WILL BE NIGHTFALL AGAIN, AND THE HULK WILL AGAIN APPEAR! SO DON'T MISS THE NEXT GREAT, SURPRISE-FILLED ISSUE!

NOTE...

STARTING NEXT ISSUE, WE WILL FEATURE A "LETTERS TO THE EDITOR" PAGE! MAIL YOUR KNOCKS OR BOOSTS TO "EDITORS," THE HULK, THIRD FLOOR, 655 MADISON AVE., NEW YORK 21, N.Y.

CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE

IND.
12¢
THE INCREDIBLE
HULK
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MC
2
JULY
"THE TERROR OF THE TOAD MEN!"
GENERAL! IT'S THEM! THE TOAD MEN! THEY'RE ATTACKING!
IT IS TOO LATE FOR THE HUMANS TO STOP US NOW! NOTHING CAN STOP US!
NOTHING, EXCEPT.. THE HULK!!
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STARRING...
THE HULK
"the TERROR of the TOAD MEN"
PART 1
"ENTER...THE TOAD MEN"
LIKE A SAVAGE, MARAUDING MONSTER FROM SOME MAD NETHER WORLD, THE FRIGHTENING FIGURE OF THE HULK SUDDENLY APPEARS FROM OUT OF THE MURKY SWAMP, AND OUR MIND-STAGGERING ADVENTURE BEGINS!!
Stan Lee + J. KIRBY
V-781
I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMEONE CRASHING THRU THE UNDER-BRUSH! BETTER SEE WHO--WHO--OH, NO! NO!
IT'S THE HULK!!
HE'S STILL ALIVE! I'VE GOTTA MAKE IT TO TOWN... GOTTA WARN THE OTHERS!
1

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GET OFF THE STREETS! LOCK YOUR DOORS!
THE HULK!!
THE HULK IS ALIVE!
HE'S HEADIN' THIS WAY!
QUICK, BOBBY! HURRY, TOMMY! INSIDE! HURRY! HURRY!
THE STREETS ARE EMPTY! IT LOOKS LIKE A GHOST TOWN... EXCEPT FOR THE TROOPERS!
LISTEN!! THAT HEAVY HORRIBLE THUDDING!! IT'S COMING CLOSER! IT MUST BE... HIM!!
THERE HE IS! IT'S THE HULK!
QUICK! PUT THE TRUCK IN HIGH GEAR! RAM IT RIGHT INTO HIM! NOW!
IT--IT'S LIKE HITTING A BRICK WALL!!
HERE COME THE TROOPERS! THEY'LL GET 'IM!
HOLD ON TO HIM! DON'T LET HIM CRASH THRU THE BARRIER!
HOLD HIM?? HOW??
LOOK OUT!!
BACK!! GET BACK!!
THERE'S NO STOPPING HIM!
2

BUT THEN, JUST WHEN IT LOOKS AS THOUGH THE ENTIRE TOWN IS ABOUT TO BE SHATTERED BY THE DEMONIACAL MIGHT OF THE HULK, ONE SMALL FIGURE BREAKS FREE OF THE TROOPERS AND CRIES...

HULK! IT'S ME, RICK JONES! HULK--LISTEN TO ME!

SLOWLY, DANGEROUSLY, THE GIANT MENACE TURNS, AS EVERY FIBRE OF HIS BEING STILL ACHES TO LASH OUT--TO SMASH, AND DESTROY!

THAT'S IT, HULK! EASY--TAKE IT EASY--FOLLOW ME! I'LL LEAD YOU TO SAFETY!

BUT, AS THE TWO DRAMATIC FIGURES FADE INTO THE DARKNESS, LET US GO BACK A FEW WEEKS! FOR THE BENEFIT OF THOSE WHO MISSED THE PREVIOUS ISSUE OF THE HULK, LET US BRIEFLY EXPLAIN HOW HE CAME TO BE...

RUN, YOU YOUNG FOOL! THE GAMMA RAY BOMB IS ABOUT TO EXPLODE!

HUH? WHAT ARE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT, MISTER?

RICK JONES, A REBELLIOUS TEENAGER, HAD ACCIDENTALLY ENTERED AN ATOMIC TESTING AREA AT THE FINAL SECONDS OF THE COUNT-DOWN! AND THEN...

IN AN EFFORT TO SAVE THE BOY, DR. BRUCE BANNER, FAMOUS SCIENTIST IN CHARGE OF THE TEST, HAD HURLED RICK TO SAFETY, ONLY TO CATCH THE FULL IMPACT OF THE MYSTERIOUS GAMMA RAYS HIMSELF!

BY A SEEMING MIRACLE, DR. BANNER WAS BROUGHT BACK TO THE BASE STILL ALIVE! BUT HE KNEW THAT DEEP INSIDE OF HIM, SOMETHING HAD--CHANGED!

AND THE CHANGE FIRST SHOWED ITSELF AN HOUR LATER, AS THE SUN SET AND DARKNESS FELL!

OHHH...

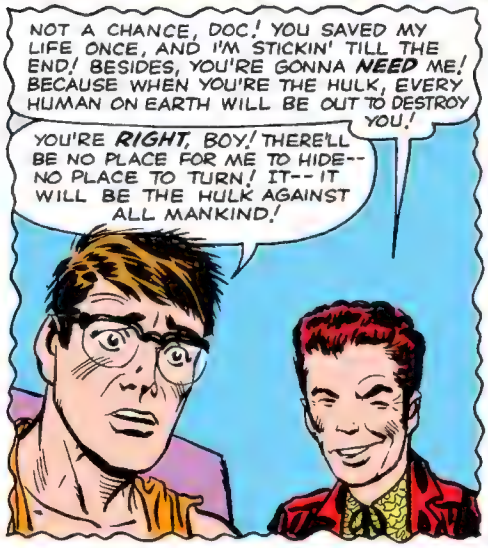
WHA--WHAT'S WRONG, DOC?

ARGGH!

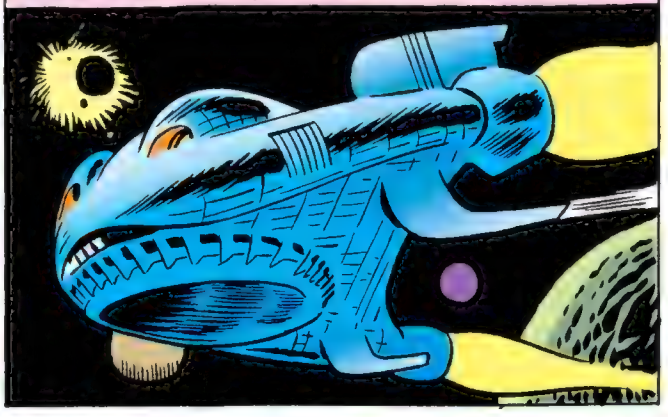
FOR THE FALL OF DARKNESS WAS DESTINED TO BRING WITH IT THE STRANGEST PHENOMENON OF ALL TIME...AT THE CLOSE OF DAY, DR. BRUCE BANNER TURNED INTO--THE HULK!

WHERE DOCTOR BANNER HAD BEEN GENTLE, THE HULK WAS A BRUTE! WHERE BANNER HAD BEEN CIVILIZED, THE HULK WAS A SAVAGE! WHERE BANNER WAS A ***MAN***, THE HULK WAS A ***MONSTER!*** A MONSTER OF SUPER-HUMAN STRENGTH, DUE TO THE GAMMA RAYS WHICH COURSED THRU HIS MIGHTY FRAME!

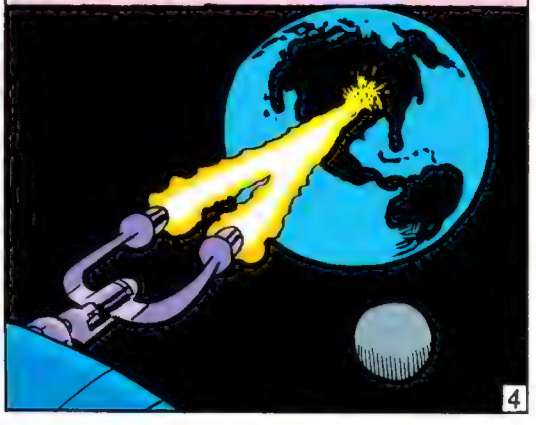
BUT, WITH THE COMING OF DAWN, THE THING THAT WAS THE HULK, VANISHED, AND BRUCE BANNER RETURNED TO NORMAL, KNOWING THAT HE WAS DESTINED FOREVER TO BE ***TWO PEOPLE*** -- BY DAY, A MILD-MANNERED INTELLECTUAL--BUT BY NIGHT, THE MOST DANGEROUS MENACE THE WORLD HAD EVER KNOWN!


NOT A CHANCE, DOC! YOU SAVED MY LIFE ONCE, AND I'M STICKIN' TILL THE END! BESIDES, YOU'RE GONNA ***NEED*** ME! BECAUSE WHEN YOU'RE THE HULK, EVERY HUMAN ON EARTH WILL BE OUT TO DESTROY YOU!
YOU'RE ***RIGHT***, BOY! THERE'LL BE NO PLACE FOR ME TO HIDE--NO PLACE TO TURN! IT--IT WILL BE THE HULK AGAINST ALL MANKIND!

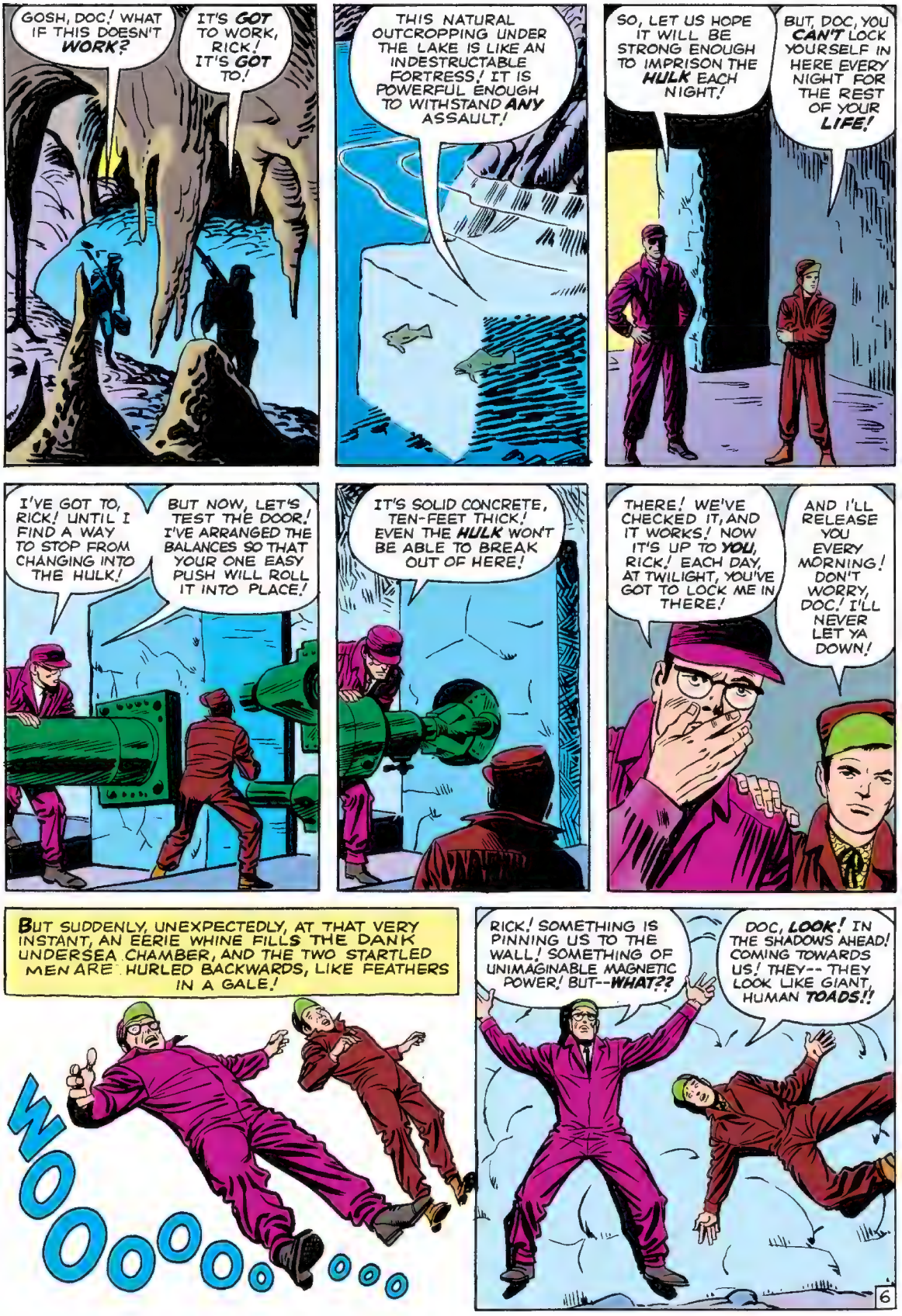
AND NOW, BACK TO THE PRESENT... EVEN AS RICK JONES LEADS THE HULK AWAY FROM THE TOWN HE HAS PILLAGED, AN UNEARTHLY SPACECRAFT THUNDERS INTO OUR SOLAR SYSTEM! PROPELLED BY A MAGNETIC SOURCE OF POWER FAR BEYOND THE COMPREHENSION OF HUMAN BEINGS, THE ***TOAD MEN*** HAVE COME!



TRAVELLING AT INCALCULABLE SPEED, TWIN BEAMS OF SHEER MAGNETIC ENERGY STRIKE THE UNSUSPECTING EARTH, DRAWN TO THEIR TARGET BY A SCIENCE FAR MORE ADVANCED THAN OUR OWN!

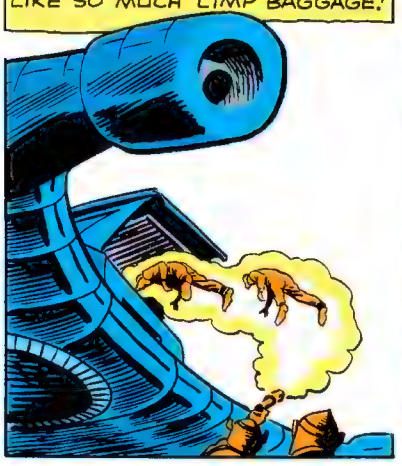


IT IS DONE! OUR GRAPPLERS HAVE FOCUSED ON THE MOST BRILLIANT SCIENTIFIC BRAIN ON EARTH, ACCORDING TO OUR COMMAND!
LET US LAND AND SEIZE HIM! WE SHALL EASILY FORCE HIM TO TELL US HOW FAR ADVANCED THE PRIMITIVE EARTHLY SCIENCES ARE! THEN WE SHALL BE ABLE TO ACCURATELY PREPARE FOR OUR MASS ATTACK!
THE MAGNETIC MIND-DETECTOR WILL LEAD US STRAIGHT TO OUR VICTIM!
WHAT CHANCE DO THE PUNY EARTHLINGS HAVE AGAINST OUR INVINCIBLE MAGNETIC POWERS?!!
AT THAT MOMENT, BRUCE BANNER AND RICK JONES ARE INTERRUPTED AS THEY SET OUT TO PERFORM A STRANGE TASK!
IT'S GENERAL "THUNDER-BOLT" ROSS AND HIS DAUGHTER BETTY!
BRUCE! I'VE BEEN SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU! EVER SINCE THE HULK ESCAPED!
HRRMPH! NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT HIM! THAT MILK-SOP WILL FIND A SAFE PLACE TO HIDE WHENEVER DANGER THREATENS!
DON'T MIND DAD BRUCE! HE HAS NO RESPECT FOR ANYBODY WHO ISN'T A MILITARY MAN!
BETTY, YOU KNOW I'M A SCIENTIST, NOT A MAN OF ACTION! AS FOR THE HULK, I'VE TOLD YOU-- YOU NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT ME! HE WOULDN'T WASTE TIME TRYING TO HURT A "MILKSOP" LIKE ME!
WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING WITH ALL THAT EQUIPMENT?
OFF TO CONDUCT A LITTLE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH! SEE YOU WHEN WE RETURN!
I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU SEE IN A WEAKLING LIKE HIM, BETTY! I WISH I HAD THAT GOLDBRICK IN MY DIVISION!
BUT THUNDERBOLT ROSS WOULD HAVE CHANGED HIS OPINION SHARPLY IF HE KNEW OF BRUCE BANNER'S REAL DESTINATION--
THIS IS IT, RICK! IT'S A LONELY UNDER-GROUND CAVE I DISCOVERED! IT'LL BE PERFECT FOR OUR PURPOSE!
5


GOSH, DOC! WHAT IF THIS DOESN'T WORK?
IT'S GOT TO WORK, RICK! IT'S GOT TO!
THIS NATURAL OUTCROPPING UNDER THE LAKE IS LIKE AN INDESTRUCTABLE FORTRESS! IT IS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO WITHSTAND ANY ASSAULT!
SO, LET US HOPE IT WILL BE STRONG ENOUGH TO IMPRISON THE HULK EACH NIGHT!
BUT, DOC, YOU CAN'T LOCK YOURSELF IN HERE EVERY NIGHT FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE!
I'VE GOT TO, RICK! UNTIL I FIND A WAY TO STOP FROM CHANGING INTO THE HULK!
BUT NOW, LET'S TEST THE DOOR! I'VE ARRANGED THE BALANCES SO THAT YOUR ONE EASY PUSH WILL ROLL IT INTO PLACE!
IT'S SOLID CONCRETE, TEN-FEET THICK! EVEN THE HULK WON'T BE ABLE TO BREAK OUT OF HERE!
THERE! WE'VE CHECKED IT, AND IT WORKS! NOW IT'S UP TO YOU, RICK! EACH DAY, AT TWILIGHT, YOU'VE GOT TO LOCK ME IN THERE!
AND I'LL RELEASE YOU EVERY MORNING! DON'T WORRY, DOC! I'LL NEVER LET YA DOWN!
BUT SUDDENLY, UNEXPECTEDLY, AT THAT VERY INSTANT, AN EERIE WHINE FILLS THE DANK UNDERSEA CHAMBER, AND THE TWO STARTLED MEN ARE HURLED BACKWARDS, LIKE FEATHERS IN A GALE!
WOOOOOOOOO
RICK! SOMETHING IS PINNING US TO THE WALL! SOMETHING OF UNIMAGINABLE MAGNETIC POWER! BUT--WHAT??
DOC, LOOK! IN THE SHADOWS AHEAD! COMING TOWARDS US! THEY-- THEY LOOK LIKE GIANT, HUMAN TOADS!!
6

PART 2
PRISONERS of the TOAD MEN!
DO NOT STRUGGLE AND YOU WILL NOT BE INJURED--YET! YOU ARE POWERLESS AGAINST OUR MAGNETIC RAY GUNS!
V-781 Stan Lee & J. KIRBY
7

HELPLESS IN THE GRIP OF THE STRANGE MAGNETIC RAY, BRUCE AND RICK ARE TAKEN FROM THEIR UNDERGROUND CHAMBER TO THE INTERIOR OF A NEARBY SPACE SHIP AND FLOATED INSIDE LIKE SO MUCH LIMP BAGGAGE!



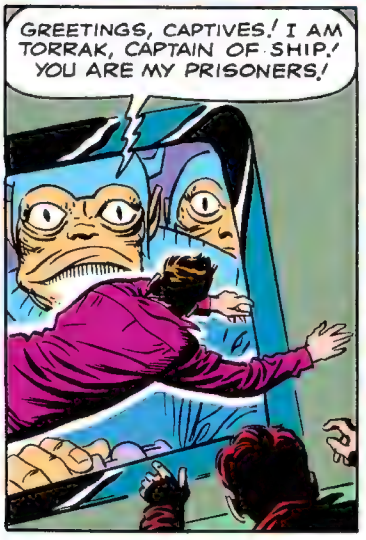
WE HAVE CAPTURED THE GREATEST MIND ON EARTH, AS WE PLANNED! NOW ***BLAST OFF!*** LET US SEEK SAFETY IN ORBIT AROUND EARTH!

MEANWHILE, INSIDE THE MIGHTY SHIP...

DOC! WHO ARE THEY? ***WHAT*** ARE THEY? WHAT'S HAPPENIN' TO US ***NOW?***

WE'RE IN FREE FALL, RICK!

GREETINGS, CAPTIVES! I AM TORRAK, CAPTAIN OF SHIP! YOU ARE MY PRISONERS!

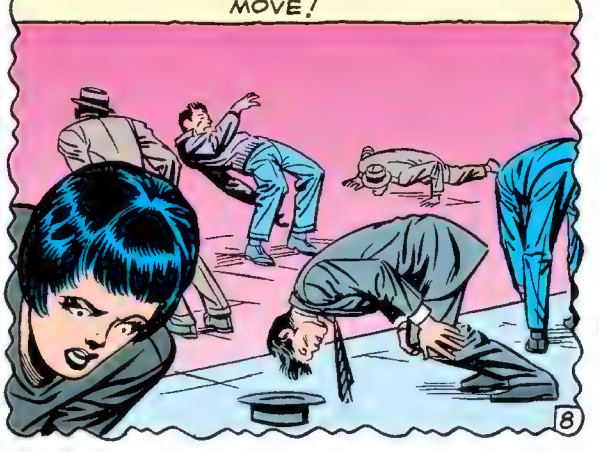


WE ARE THE ***TOAD MEN***, FROM OUTER SPACE! OUTSIDE YOUR ATMOSPHERE, THE MAIN BODY OF OUR INVINCIBLE FLEET WAITS TO ATTACK EARTH! BUT FIRST WE WANT TO LEARN HOW ADVANCED YOU ARE, SCIENTIFICALLY! AND THAT IS WHAT ***YOU*** WILL TELL US!

YOU DARE NOT REFUSE! FOR AT MY COMMAND, OUR MAGNETIC REPULSION RAYS CAN MAKE ENTIRE EARTH CITIES FLY OFF INTO SPACE IN THE WINK OF AN EYE!

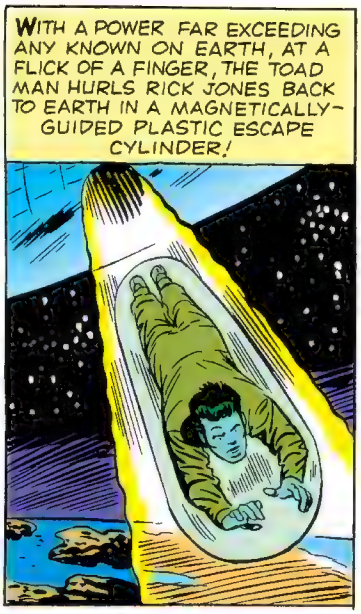
"WITH THE INCALCULABLE POWER OF MAGNETIC FORCE AT OUR COMMAND, WE CAN EMPTY YOUR OCEANS...

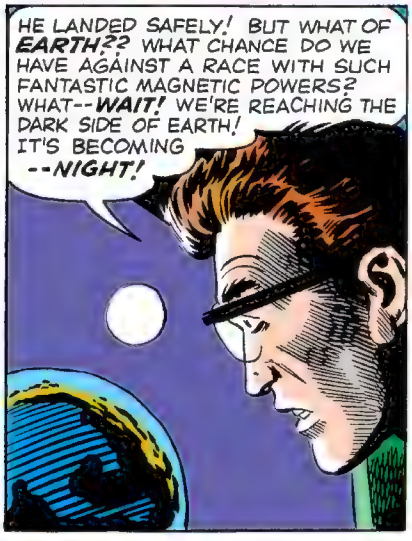
"BY ***REVERSING*** OUR MAGNETIC FORCE, WE CAN ROOT YOUR PEOPLE TO THE GROUND, MAKING THEM UNABLE TO MOVE!



SO! WILL YOU TELL ME WHAT I WISH TO KNOW, OR...
NEVER! NO MATTER HOW YOU THREATEN!
ATTA BOY, DOC! DON'T LET THAT CAT SCARE YA!

WITLESS STRIPLING! WE HAVE NO NEED OF YOU! IT IS THE OTHER'S BRAIN WE REQUIRE! AS FOR YOU --BACK TO YOUR MISERABLE PLANET!


WITH A POWER FAR EXCEEDING ANY KNOWN ON EARTH, AT A FLICK OF A FINGER, THE TOAD MAN HURLS RICK JONES BACK TO EARTH IN A MAGNETICALLY-GUIDED PLASTIC ESCAPE CYLINDER!


HE LANDED SAFELY! BUT WHAT OF EARTH?? WHAT CHANCE DO WE HAVE AGAINST A RACE WITH SUCH FANTASTIC MAGNETIC POWERS? WHAT--WAIT! WE'RE REACHING THE DARK SIDE OF EARTH! IT'S BECOMING --NIGHT!

DON'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN! NOT NOW! PLEASE--NOT NOW!

NO--NO!

ARGHHH!

WHERE AM I?? WHY AM I LOCKED IN HERE??

MEANWHILE...
NOW THAT THE BOY IS GONE, IT WILL BE EASIER TO HANDLE THE HUMAN!
LET US RETURN TO HIS CHAMBER AND FORCE HIM TO TALK!

BY NOW, THE HUMAN SHOULD BE WILLING TO TELL US ANYTHING! HE SHOULD-- WHA--??!!
WHAT MANNER OF CREATURE IS IT?
NO MATTER! DESTROY IT!
YOU DARE ATTACK THE HULK??!
NOW YOU TASTE THE STING OF YOUR WEAPON!
WITH STAGGERING FORCE, THE MAGNETIC STUN GUN SCATTERS THE TOAD MEN LIKE TEN PINS!
LIKE A CHILD CARRYING RAG DOLLS, THE POWERFUL HULK HURLS THE ALIENS INTO A WINDOWLESS CHAMBER IN THE SHIP, AND THEN...
I WILL LOCK YOU IN HERE WHILE I TAKE CONTROL OF THE SHIP!
THESE WEAPONS... THEY MAKE OUR ARMS LOOK LIKE PEA SHOOTERS!
WITH THIS FLYING DREADNAUGHT UNDER ME, I CAN WIPE OUT ALL MANKIND! NOW THE HULK WILL BE THE HUNTER INSTEAD OF THE HUNTED!
10

MEANWHILE, MILES BELOW, AT A U.S. ANTI-MISSILE BASE...

IF YOUR RADAR SHOWS AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT ABOVE US, **SHOOT IT DOWN,** MAN! WHAT DO YOU THINK WE'RE **HERE** FOR?

WITHIN SECONDS, AMERICA'S MIGHTY DEFENSE ROCKETS ARE ALERTED AS FANTASTICALLY SENSITIVE ELECTRONIC DEVICES AIM THEM RIGHT AT THE TOADMEN'S SHIP!

THREE SECONDS... TWO SECONDS... ONE--

WHILE ONE LONE TEEN-AGE FIGURE VAINLY TRIES TO STOP THE DEADLY HUNTER MISSILES!

NO! **NO!** DOCTOR BANNER IS ABOARD THE SPACE SHIP! YOU'VE GOT TO STOP! DON'T FIRE! **DON'T!**

BUT THE FRENZIED CRY OF ONE BOY CANNOT HALT AMERICA'S MIGHTIEST DEFENSE WEAPONS, AS THEY RISE LIKE SILENT AVENGERS INTO THE AWESOME SUBSTRATOSPHERE!

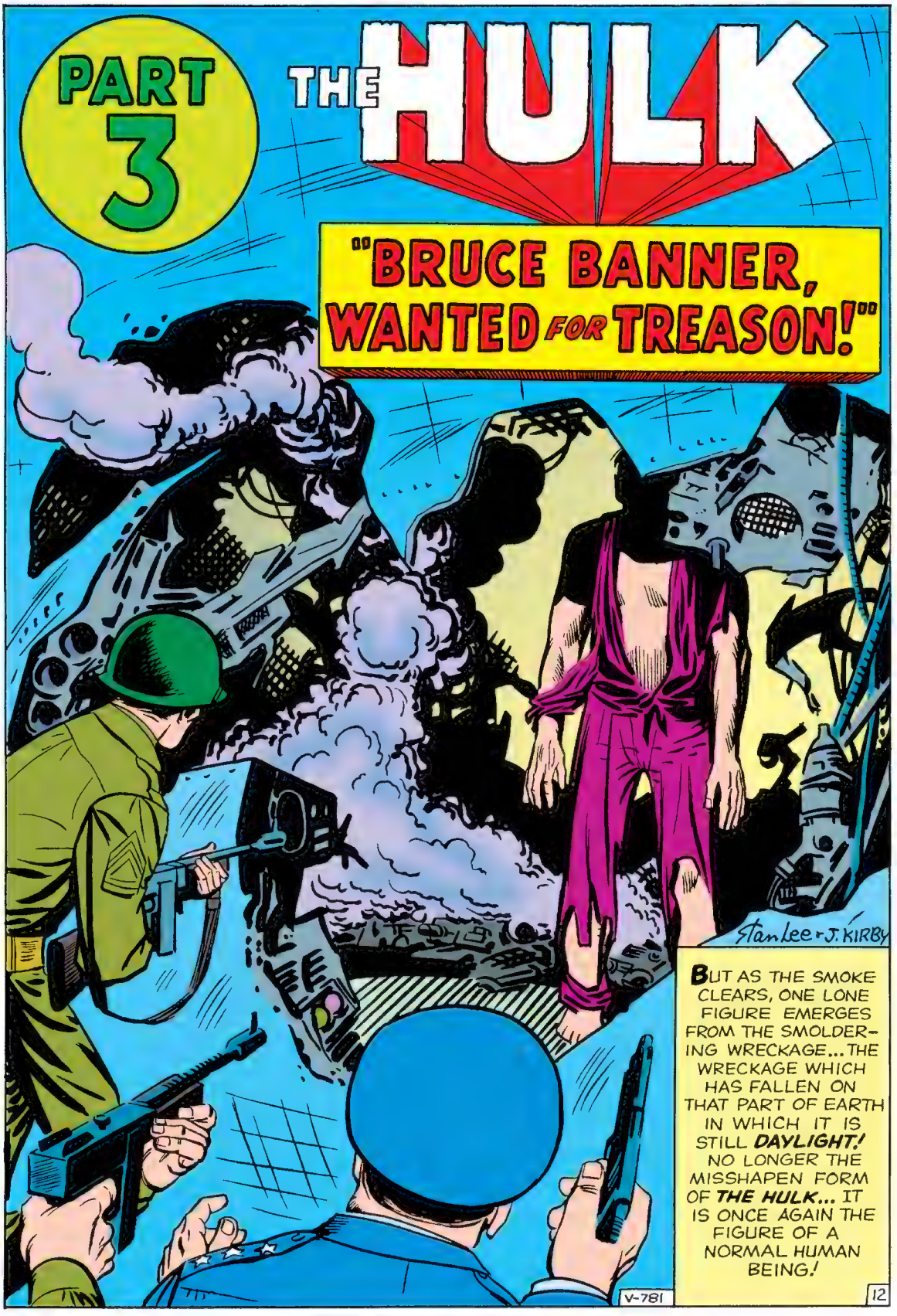
WITHIN STRIKING RANGE OF THE SPACE SHIP, THEY DROP THEIR BOOSTERS BACK TO EARTH AS THE MIGHTY WARHEADS ZERO IN ON THEIR TARGET!

AND THEN--THE DREAD MOMENT OF **IMPACT!**

LIKE A WOUNDED HAWK, THE ALIEN SHIP PLUNGES TO EARTH, AS ITS UNEARTHLY FRAME SAVES THE OCCUPANTS FROM INSTANT DEATH BY CUSHIONING THE FALL!

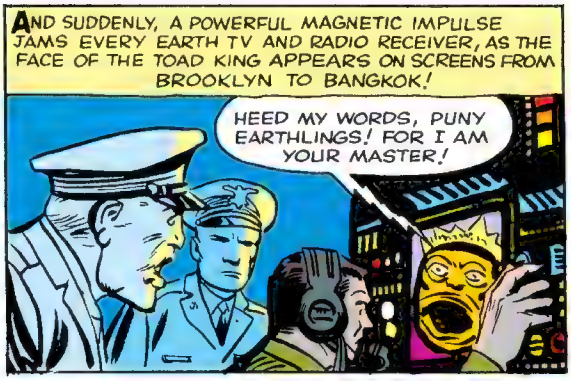
SURROUND THAT SHIP! SEAL OFF THE AREA! **MOVE!**

THIS MAY BE THE BIGGEST VICTORY WE HAVE EVER ACHIEVED! I WANT AN IRON CORDON THROWN AROUND THE THE SHIP!


PART 3
THE HULK
"BRUCE BANNER, WANTED FOR TREASON!"
Stan Lee • J. KIRBY
BUT AS THE SMOKE CLEARS, ONE LONE FIGURE EMERGES FROM THE SMOLDERING WRECKAGE... THE WRECKAGE WHICH HAS FALLEN ON THAT PART OF EARTH IN WHICH IT IS STILL DAYLIGHT! NO LONGER THE MISSHAPEN FORM OF THE HULK... IT IS ONCE AGAIN THE FIGURE OF A NORMAL HUMAN BEING!
V-781
12

IT--IT'S DOCTOR BRUCE BANNER!!
SO! IT WAS YOU! TRYIN' A SNEAK ATTACK ON YOUR OWN COUNTRY, EH?? YOU'LL NEVER TALK YOUR WAY OUT OF THIS, MISTER! TAKE 'IM AWAY, MEN!
MEANWHILE, BEFORE THE TROOPS CAN MANAGE TO SURROUND THE ENTIRE SHIP, THE TOADMEN, UNHARMED BY THE CUSHIONED CRASH, FRANTICALLY USE THEIR MAGNETIC WEAPONS TO SILENTLY BLAST A HOLE IN THE EARTH BENEATH THEM!
HURRY! BEFORE THE EARTHLINGS DISCOVER US!
LOOKS AS THOUGH BANNER HANDLED THE SHIP ALL BY HIMSELF!
HE MUST HAVE! THERE'S NO SIGN OF ANY OTHER LIFE!
ONCE SAFELY AWAY FROM THE ARMED GUARD, THE TOADMEN EMERGE, AND THEN...
BRING OUT THE MAGNETIC FLARE! THERE IS NO TIME TO LOSE! OUR FORCES MUST STRIKE NOW!
THERE IS THE SIGNAL! PREPARE TO ATTACK EARTH!
13

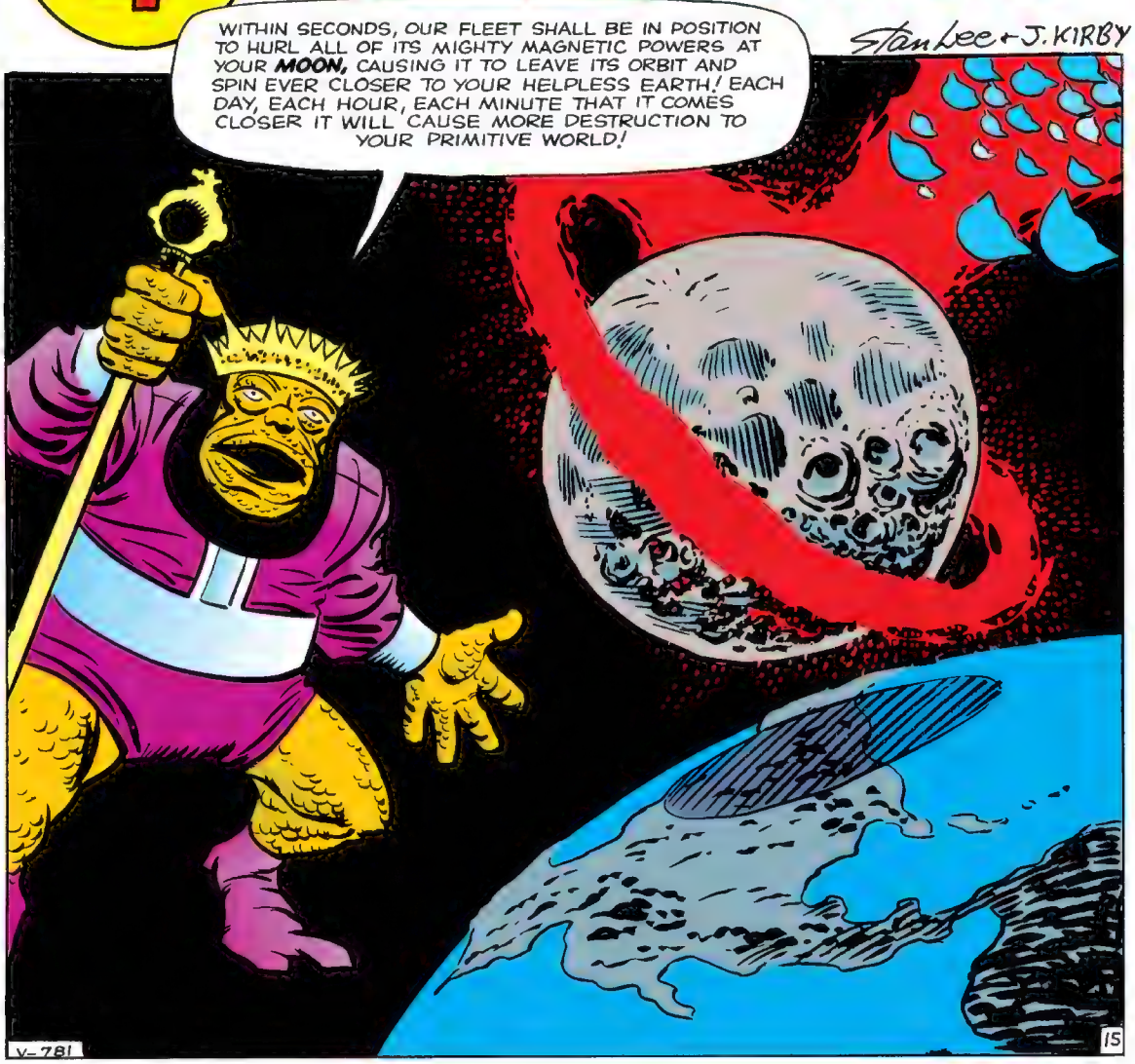
MOMENTS LATER, AT A MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON...
TAKE IT EASY, RICK! THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO FOR ME NOW!
BUT, DOC, THESE JOES DON'T UNDERSTAND! THEY CAN'T CALL YOU A TRAITOR! NOT YOU!
DOC, AS SOON AS IT GETS DARK-- THE HULK CAN BUST OUTTA THIS JOINT EASY ENOUGH, CAN'T HE?
PERHAPS, RICK, BUT HE'S SO UNPREDICTABLE! IT MIGHT BE BETTER IF DARKNESS NEVER CAME!
WHILE, OUTSIDE THE CONCRETE PRISON...
I WANT A TWENTY-FOUR HOUR GUARD AROUND BANNER! UNDERSTAND, SOLDIER??
YES SIR, GENERAL ROSS! NOTHING HUMAN EVER CAN ESCAPE FROM HERE, SIR!
BUT GENERAL "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS CANNOT REST EASY, EVEN AFTER REACHING HIS HOME...
DAD, YOU CAN'T REALLY THINK THAT BRUCE BANNER IS A TRAITOR! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK, BETTY! ALL I KNOW IS HE BUZZED THIS CONTINENT IN A STRANGE, POWERFUL SHIP, WITH NO WARNING AND NO AUTHORIZATION! IT'S UP TO WASHINGTON TO DECIDE HIS FATE NOW!
BRRNNG!
WHAT'S THAT?? AN INVASION??! AN ARMADA OF SPACE SHIPS! WHERE?? HOW? KEEP CALM, MAN! SOUND THE RED ALERT! I'M ON MY WAY!
DAD! IF EARTH IS IN DANGER, WE'LL NEED BRUCE BANNER! WE'LL NEED HIS KNOWLEDGE! HIS BRAINS!
AT THAT VERY MOMENT, TRAVELLING AT INCALCULABLE SPEED, THE MIGHTIEST SPACE FORCE EVER SEEN ON EARTH STREAKS ACROSS THE SKIES, THROWING THE ENTIRE PLANET INTO A STATE OF UNCONTROLLABLE PANIC!
14

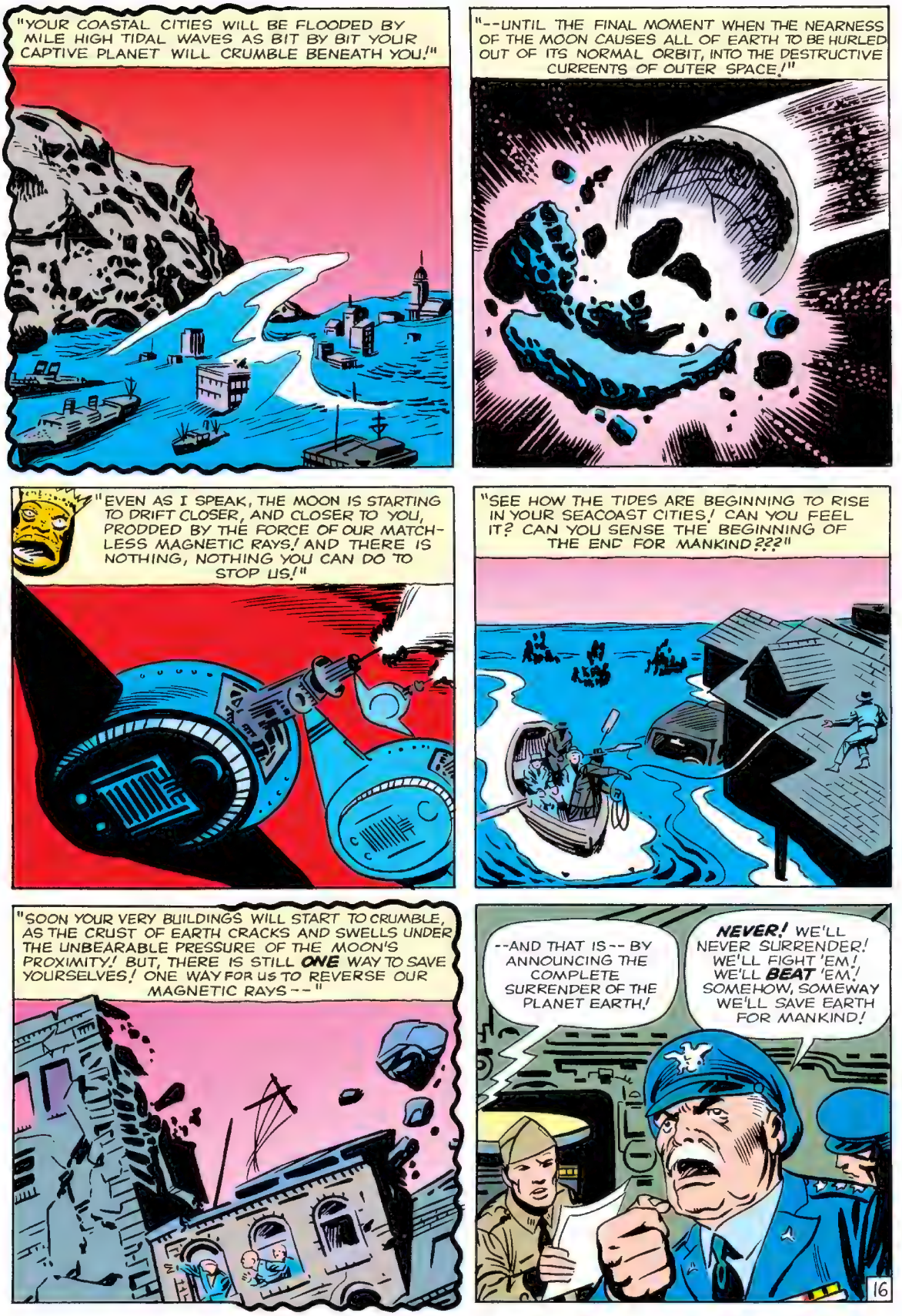

AND SUDDENLY, A POWERFUL MAGNETIC IMPULSE JAMS EVERY EARTH TV AND RADIO RECEIVER, AS THE FACE OF THE TOAD KING APPEARS ON SCREENS FROM BROOKLYN TO BANGKOK!
HEED MY WORDS, PUNY EARTHLINGS! FOR I AM YOUR MASTER!

EVEN NOW MY INVINCIBLE FORCES CONTROL THE SKIES ABOVE YOUR PLANET, AS THEY PREPARE TO LAUNCH THE GREATEST THREAT YOU CAN IMAGINE!

PART 4 HULK "RUNS AMOK!"

Stan Lee + J. KIRBY


WITHIN SECONDS, OUR FLEET SHALL BE IN POSITION TO HURL ALL OF ITS MIGHTY MAGNETIC POWERS AT YOUR MOON, CAUSING IT TO LEAVE ITS ORBIT AND SPIN EVER CLOSER TO YOUR HELPLESS EARTH! EACH DAY, EACH HOUR, EACH MINUTE THAT IT COMES CLOSER IT WILL CAUSE MORE DESTRUCTION TO YOUR PRIMITIVE WORLD!


"YOUR COASTAL CITIES WILL BE FLOODED BY MILE HIGH TIDAL WAVES AS BIT BY BIT YOUR CAPTIVE PLANET WILL CRUMBLE BENEATH YOU!"
"--UNTIL THE FINAL MOMENT WHEN THE NEARNESS OF THE MOON CAUSES ALL OF EARTH TO BE HURLED OUT OF ITS NORMAL ORBIT, INTO THE DESTRUCTIVE CURRENTS OF OUTER SPACE!"
"EVEN AS I SPEAK, THE MOON IS STARTING TO DRIFT CLOSER, AND CLOSER TO YOU, PRODDED BY THE FORCE OF OUR MATCHLESS MAGNETIC RAYS! AND THERE IS NOTHING, NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO STOP US!"
"SEE HOW THE TIDES ARE BEGINNING TO RISE IN YOUR SEACOAST CITIES! CAN YOU FEEL IT? CAN YOU SENSE THE BEGINNING OF THE END FOR MANKIND???"
"SOON YOUR VERY BUILDINGS WILL START TO CRUMBLE, AS THE CRUST OF EARTH CRACKS AND SWELLS UNDER THE UNBEARABLE PRESSURE OF THE MOON'S PROXIMITY! BUT, THERE IS STILL ONE WAY TO SAVE YOURSELVES! ONE WAY FOR US TO REVERSE OUR MAGNETIC RAYS--"
--AND THAT IS-- BY ANNOUNCING THE COMPLETE SURRENDER OF THE PLANET EARTH!
NEVER! WE'LL NEVER SURRENDER! WE'LL FIGHT 'EM! WE'LL BEAT 'EM! SOMEHOW, SOMEWAY WE'LL SAVE EARTH FOR MANKIND!
16

MEANWHILE, IN A LONELY, BARREN CELL, ONE FIGURE IS ALL BUT FORGOTTEN AS EARTH SEEMS TO TREMBLE IN ITS FINAL DEATH THROES! ONE LONE FIGURE WHO GRIMLY GRIPS THE IRON BARS AS HE WATCHES THE GATHERING TWILIGHT BEGIN TO CREEP OVER THE COUNTRYSIDE!

NOW I CAN FEEL IT! MY THROAT GROWS TIGHT! MY HEAD IS THROBBING! A BLACK HAZE SEEMS TO BE COVERING MY BRAIN...

I'M CHANGING! HEAVEN HELP ME, I CAN NO LONGER STOP IT--NO LONGER CONTROL MYSELF! I--I--

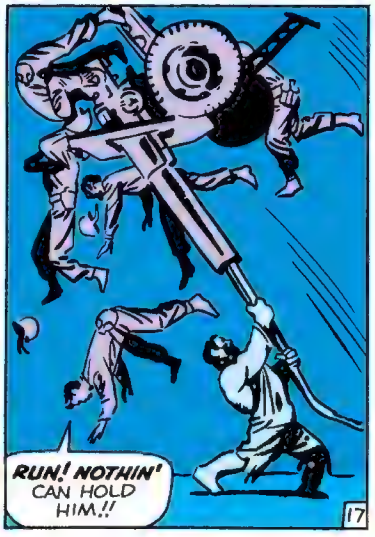
AHHHHHHH...

AND THERE IN THE CELL, UNNOTICED BY ANY HUMAN EYES, THE HULK AGAIN APPEARS!

SMASHING THRU THE CONCRETE WALL, THE STEEL BARS, AS THOUGH THEY ARE CARDBOARD, HE LUNGES OUT INTO THE OPEN!

LOOK! IT'S THE HULK!
HURRY! LOAD AND FIRE!
HE--HE'S RIPPING A RAIL RIGHT OUT OF THOSE TRACKS!

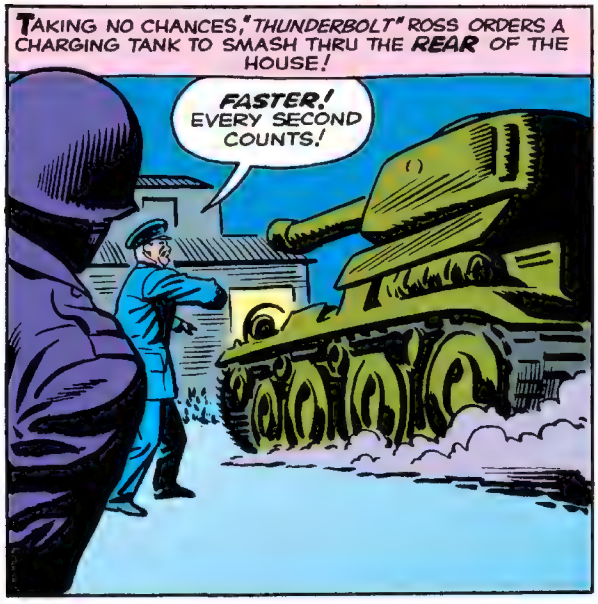
BEFORE THE STARTLED ARTILLARYMEN CAN BRING THEIR WEAPON INTO PLAY, THE MOST AWESOME CREATURE ON EARTH LUMBERS TOWARD THEM LIKE A LIVING BATTERING RAM!


RUN! NOTHIN' CAN HOLD HIM!!

AND, A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY, ANOTHER PAIR OF ALERT EYES STARE IN DISBELIEF!
D-DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?
HE--HE'S COMING TOWARD US!
BUDDY, YOU DON'T HAVETA TELL ME TWICE!
JUMP FOR YOUR LIFE!
LET'S GET OUTTA HERE! WE'VE GOTTA WARN GENERAL ROSS!
GENERAL--! HE LOCKED ME IN A CELL!
HE IS MY ENEMY! I MUST FIND HIM --MUST FIND GENERAL!
HERE! THIS IS HIS HOME!
IS THAT YOU, DAD?
OH, NO!! HELP!
HELP!!
IT'S MY DAUGHTER! THE HULK MUST HAVE APPEARED AGAIN! ATTACK!
HE WON'T ESCAPE US THIS TIME!
18

BREAK DOWN THE DOOR!
HURRY!
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT OVER-GROWN GORILLA ONCE AND FOR ALL!

WHOOOFF!


TAKING NO CHANCES, "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS ORDERS A CHARGING TANK TO SMASH THRU THE REAR OF THE HOUSE!
FASTER! EVERY SECOND COUNTS!

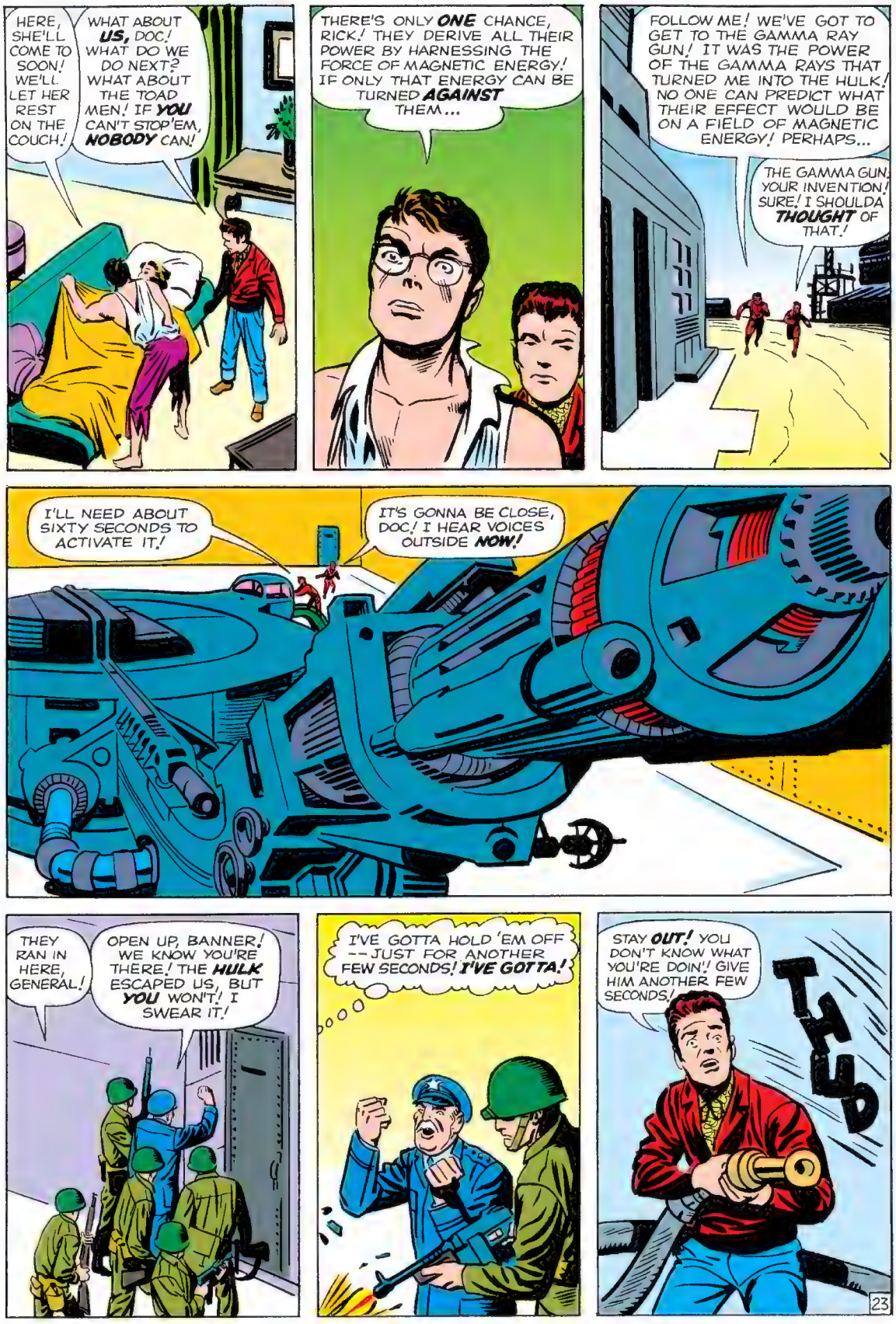
LEMME THRU! YOU GUYS GOTTA LET ME THRU! I'M THE ONLY ONE CAN REASON WITH 'IM!

SECONDS LATER, TOAD MEN AND EARTH INVASIONS ARE MOMENTARILY FORCOTTEN AS THE HULK AND HIS PURSUERS STAND FACE TO FACE, AND DESTINY SEEMS TO HOLD HER BREATH, WAITING FOR THE NEXT FATEFUL MOVE!

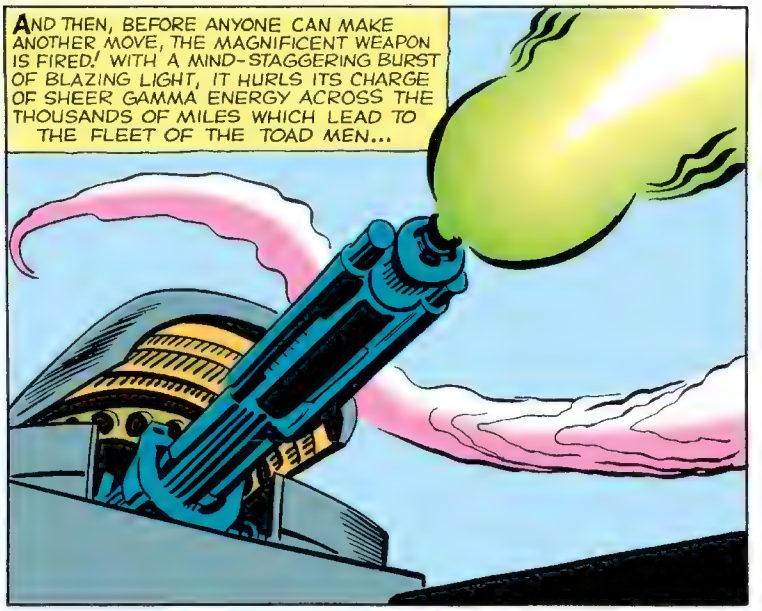
HOLD YOUR FIRE! YOU MIGHT HIT MY DAUGHTER!
DON'T SHOOT! LET ME GO TO HIM!
HULK--HULK! IT'S ME, RICK! YOUR FRIEND!
THE HULK HAS NO FRIENDS!
NOW'S OUR CHANCE! GET 'IM!
PART 5
THE END OF THE HULK?
Stan Lee & J. KIRBY
LIKE A MADDENED GRIZZLY SHAKING OFF THE ATTACK OF A PACK OF WOLVES, THE HULK HURLS HIS FOES FROM HIM!
20

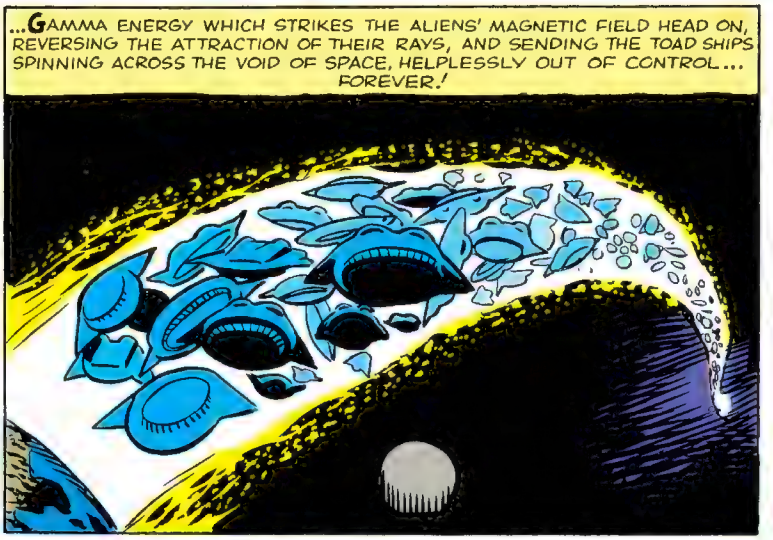
AND THEN, MOVING WITH UNBELIEVABLE SPEED FOR ONE SO HUGE, THE HULK LIFTS THE SIDE OF THE WOODEN BUILDING AS THOUGH IT IS A PAPER BOX, AND...
STOP HIM! HE'S GETTIN' AWAY!
TOO MANY MEN! GOT TO GET AWAY! TAKE YOU AS HOSTAGE!
NO-- NO!
THEN, BEFORE THE STUNNED FIGHTING MEN CAN MARSHAL THEIR FORCES AGAIN, THE LUMBERING GIANT AND HIS PRISONER SOON LOSE THEMSELVES IN THE GLOOM OF EVENING!
BUT ONE SMALL FIGURE SEPARATES FROM THE OTHERS, AS RICK JONES FOLLOWS A HUNCH...
THE LAB! HE MUST BE TAKIN' HER TO BRUCE BANNER'S LAB!
AND THE BOY IS RIGHT!
WHO ARE YOU?? WHY DO YOU HATE US SO??
HATE YOU?? WHY SHOULDN'T I HATE YOU? WHY SHOULDN'T I HATE ALL MANKIND??
LOOK WHAT MEN HAVE DONE TO ME!
BUT THEY WILL HOUND ME NO NO LONGER! FOR NOW THE HULK WILL FIGHT BACK! ...ON MY OWN TERMS!
21

THEN, AT THAT VERY INSTANT...
HULK! STOP! DON'T! LISTEN TO ME--
YOU! THIS TIME I SILENCE YOU-- FOREVER!
WAIT! YOU'VE GOT TO LISTEN! WE NEED YOU! EARTH IS IN DANGER! YOU'VE GOT TO HELP! YOU'VE GOT TO UNDERSTAND!
AND, EVEN AS RICK FRANTICALLY PLEADS WITH THE THING THAT CONFRONTS HIM--EVEN AS THE HULK GETS CLOSER, AND CLOSER, THRUOUT THE LAND MORE AND MORE EARTHQUAKES AND UPHEAVELS BEGIN TO TAKE THEIR TOLL...
BUT WE CAN NEVER KNOW WHETHER RICK JONES' WORDS MIGHT HAVE SWAYED THE MIGHTY HULK, FOR THE OCCUPANTS OF THE SMALL COTTAGE ARE SUDDENLY FLUNG OFF BALANCE AS A VIOLENT EARTH TREMOR STRIKES!
SLOWLY, THE DAZED BOY PICKS HIMSELF UP, BUT THE MASSIVE FORM OF THE HULK IS STILL--MOTIONLESS--AS THE FIRST FAINT RAYS OF DAYLIGHT BATHE IT IN THEIR EERIE GLOW--AS THE HARSH, BRUTAL FEATURES BEGIN TO SOFTEN, AND CHANGE...
UNTIL FINALLY...
DOC! WOTTA RELIEF! I THOUGHT I WAS DONE FOR THAT TIME FOR SURE!
GIVE ME MY GLASSES, RICK! AND THEN--TELL ME--QUICKLY--WHAT HAPPENED! I-I CAN'T REMEMBER--IT'S LIKE AN UGLY, FADING NIGHTMARE!
QUICKLY, THE EXCITED TEEN-AGER RELATES THE FANTASTIC EVENTS OF THE PREVIOUS NIGHT, AND THEN...
SHE'S STILL UNCONSCIOUS! PERHAPS IT'S BETTER THIS WAY! SHE CANNOT KNOW MY TERRIBLE SECRET!
SHE'LL BE SAFE HERE NOW...AS SAFE AS ANYONE CAN BE IN THIS FEARFUL WORLD!
DOC, WE GOTTA HURRY! THERE'S LOTS TO DO!
22


HERE, SHE'LL COME TO SOON! WE'LL LET HER REST ON THE COUCH!
WHAT ABOUT US, DOC! WHAT DO WE DO NEXT? WHAT ABOUT THE TOAD MEN! IF YOU CAN'T STOP 'EM, NOBODY CAN!
THERE'S ONLY ONE CHANCE, RICK! THEY DERIVE ALL THEIR POWER BY HARNESSING THE FORCE OF MAGNETIC ENERGY! IF ONLY THAT ENERGY CAN BE TURNED AGAINST THEM...
FOLLOW ME! WE'VE GOT TO GET TO THE GAMMA RAY GUN! IT WAS THE POWER OF THE GAMMA RAYS THAT TURNED ME INTO THE HULK! NO ONE CAN PREDICT WHAT THEIR EFFECT WOULD BE ON A FIELD OF MAGNETIC ENERGY! PERHAPS...
THE GAMMA GUN, YOUR INVENTION! SURE! I SHOULDA THOUGHT OF THAT!
I'LL NEED ABOUT SIXTY SECONDS TO ACTIVATE IT!
IT'S GONNA BE CLOSE, DOC! I HEAR VOICES OUTSIDE NOW!
THEY RAN IN HERE, GENERAL!
OPEN UP, BANNER! WE KNOW YOU'RE THERE! THE HULK ESCAPED US, BUT YOU WON'T! I SWEAR IT!
I'VE GOTTA HOLD 'EM OFF -- JUST FOR ANOTHER FEW SECONDS! I'VE GOTTA!
STAY OUT! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOIN'! GIVE HIM ANOTHER FEW SECONDS!
23

STAY BACK! I WARNED YOU!
IT'S OPEN! GET--GLUG!

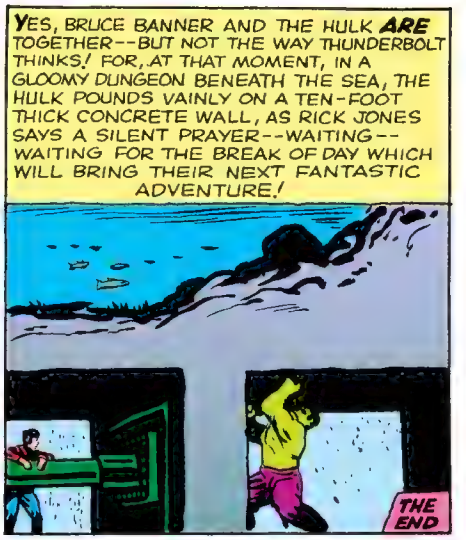

AND THEN, BEFORE ANYONE CAN MAKE ANOTHER MOVE, THE MAGNIFICENT WEAPON IS FIRED! WITH A MIND-STAGGERING BURST OF BLAZING LIGHT, IT HURLS ITS CHARGE OF SHEER GAMMA ENERGY ACROSS THE THOUSANDS OF MILES WHICH LEAD TO THE FLEET OF THE TOAD MEN...


...GAMMA ENERGY WHICH STRIKES THE ALIENS' MAGNETIC FIELD HEAD ON, REVERSING THE ATTRACTION OF THEIR RAYS, AND SENDING THE TOAD SHIPS SPINNING ACROSS THE VOID OF SPACE, HELPLESSLY OUT OF CONTROL... FOREVER!

AND, WITH THE FADING OF THE MAGNETIC FORCE, THE MOON AGAIN RESUMES ITS NATURAL ORBIT, AS A GRATEFUL EARTH RETURNS TO NORMAL!
THE EARTH TREMORS HAVE STOPPED!
THE TOAD FLEET IS GONE! WE'RE SAVED--SAVED!

THEN, SINCE NO ONE DARES CALL THE MAN WHO SAVED EARTH A TRAITOR, BRUCE BANNER AND RICK ARE RELEASED, JUST BEFORE THE FALL OF NIGHT! AND, AT THE HOME OF GENERAL ROSS...
I TOLD YOU WE COULD TRUST BRUCE, DAD!
HRRUMMPH!

EVEN THOUGH HE MANAGED TO CLEAR HIMSELF THIS TIME, I'M STILL SUSPICIOUS OF HIM! I STILL FEEL THERE'S SOME CONNECTION BETWEEN HIM AND THAT DING-BLASTED HULK! FOR ALL WE KNOW, HE AND THE HULK ARE TOGETHER RIGHT NOW, PLANNING NEW DEVILMENT!
OH, DAD...


YES, BRUCE BANNER AND THE HULK ARE TOGETHER--BUT NOT THE WAY THUNDERBOLT THINKS! FOR, AT THAT MOMENT, IN A GLOOMY DUNGEON BENEATH THE SEA, THE HULK POUNDS VAINLY ON A TEN-FOOT THICK CONCRETE WALL, AS RICK JONES SAYS A SILENT PRAYER--WAITING--WAITING FOR THE BREAK OF DAY WHICH WILL BRING THEIR NEXT FANTASTIC ADVENTURE!
THE END

CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE

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THE INCREDIBLE
HULK
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I CAN'T CONTROL HIM ANY MORE! THE HULK HAS GONE BERSERK!
SEE THE HULK BANISHED TO OUTER SPACE...TRAPPED BY THE RINGMASTER--AND OTHER THRILLS WITH THE MOST EXCITING, ORIGINAL CHARACTER IN COMICS!
LOOK!! NOTHING CAN STOP HIM NOW! HE CAN FLY!!
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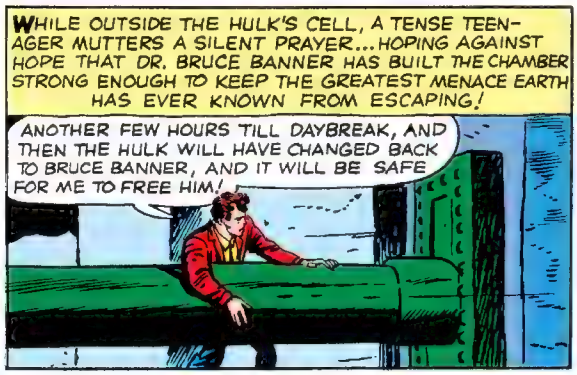
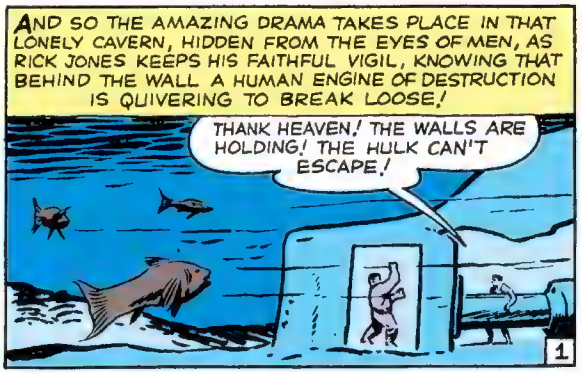
THE HULK
"BANISHED TO OUTER SPACE"
PART 1
IN A CEMENT-WALLED CHAMBER BENEATH THE SEA, THE MOST INCREDIBLE CREATURE ON EARTH POUNDS VAINLY AGAINST THE WALLS OF HIS PRISON --WALLS WHICH WERE BUILT TO WITHSTAND THE FORCE OF AN ATOMIC EXPLOSION!
Stan Lee & J. KIRBY
V-869


WHILE OUTSIDE THE HULK'S CELL, A TENSE TEEN-AGER MUTTERS A SILENT PRAYER...HOPING AGAINST HOPE THAT DR. BRUCE BANNER HAS BUILT THE CHAMBER STRONG ENOUGH TO KEEP THE GREATEST MENACE EARTH HAS EVER KNOWN FROM ESCAPING!
ANOTHER FEW HOURS TILL DAYBREAK, AND THEN THE HULK WILL HAVE CHANGED BACK TO BRUCE BANNER, AND IT WILL BE SAFE FOR ME TO FREE HIM!


AND SO THE AMAZING DRAMA TAKES PLACE IN THAT LONELY CAVERN, HIDDEN FROM THE EYES OF MEN, AS RICK JONES KEEPS HIS FAITHFUL VIGIL, KNOWING THAT BEHIND THE WALL A HUMAN ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION IS QUIVERING TO BREAK LOOSE!
THANK HEAVEN! THE WALLS ARE HOLDING! THE HULK CAN'T ESCAPE!
1

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ALONE WITH HIS THOUGHTS, THE BOY REMEMBERS THE EVENTS OF THE PAST FEW HOURS, AS HE AND DR. BANNER RUSHED TO THE HIDDEN CAVERN...
HURRY, RICK! IT'S GROWING DARK! THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME!
I'M COMIN', DOC!
WE'RE JUST IN TIME! NOW REMEMBER--DON'T OPEN THIS DOOR TILL DAYBREAK! NO MATTER WHAT!
BUT, DOC--WHAT IF SOMETHIN' HAPPENS TO ME?? WHAT IF I GET SICK OR SOMETHIN'? WHAT IF I CAN'T OPEN THE DOOR IN THE MORNING!
IT'S A CHANCE I HAVE TO TAKE, RICK! BETTER FOR ME TO SUFFOCATE IN THERE AS BRUCE BANNER, THAN TO ESCAPE AND MENACE THE WORLD AS--THE HULK!
THE MASSIVE CONCRETE DOOR CLOSES BEHIND BRUCE BANNER AT THE EXACT MOMENT THAT EVENING BEGINS ON THE SURFACE! THEN, JUST AS IT HAS HAPPENED SO MANY TIMES BEFORE...
...A STARTLING CHANGE COMES OVER THE MILD, SCHOLORLY SCIENTIST...
...AND BEHOLD--THE HULK!!!
SATISFIED THAT THE MONSTROUS CREATURE IS SAFELY IMPRISONED IN HIS CELL, RICK LEAVES THE CAVERN AS HE HEADS FOR BRUCE BANNER'S COTTAGE AND SOME MUCH-NEEDED SLEEP...
WHEW! I SURE CAN USE SOME SHUT-EYE!
BUT SUDDENLY!
HOLD ON, SON! YOU'RE RICK JONES, AREN'T YOU?
YEAH! WHAT'S IT TO YOU, NAPOLEON!
DON'T GET SMART, KID! WE'VE BEEN LOOKIN' FOR YOU!
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2

WE'VE HAD THIS AREA UNDER SURVEILLANCE ALL DAY! WE KNEW YOU WERE BOUND TO SHOW UP SOONER OR LATER! AND OUR ORDERS FROM GENERAL "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS ARE--BRING IN RICK JONES! THE GENERAL KNOWS YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN LEAD US TO THE HULK!
AND, AT HIS HEADQUARTERS, A FEW MILES AWAY, THUNDERBOLT ROSS HOLDS A DRAMATIC STAFF MEETING...
MY MEN WILL FIND RICK JONES--YOU CAN COUNT ON IT! AND WHEN THEY DO, WE'LL GET THE HULK! HE WON'T ESCAPE US AGAIN! I SWEAR IT!
AND REMEMBER, WHEN THE BOY IS BROUGHT IN, WE BEGIN PLAN "H"! WE'LL FORCE HIM TO BRING THE HULK TO US!
HERE HE COMES NOW, GENERAL!
WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA, GENERAL? I AIN'T DONE NOTHIN'!
JONES, I'LL GET RIGHT TO THE POINT! YOU'VE GOT TO BRING THE HULK TO US! THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE!
COOL IT, MISTER! NOTHIN' CAN MAKE ME RAT ON THE HULK!
LOOK, SON, THIS IS BIGGER THAN YOU OR ME! THIS INVOLVES THE SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES!
OUT THERE, ON THE LAUNCHING PAD, IS AMERICA'S NEWEST, MOST IMPORTANT MISSILE! IT MUST BE TESTED! BUT THERE ISN'T A MAN LIVING WHO COULD STAND THE FORCE OF ITS G-PULL--EXCEPT THE HULK!
WE WANT THE HULK TO RIDE THAT ROCKET, IN THE INTERESTS OF NATIONAL SECURITY! NO ONE ELSE CAN DO IT! NOW, WHAT DO YOU SAY?
A SILENCE SO THICK THAT IT CAN ALMOST BE CUT DESCENDS UPON THE ROOM, AS THE SULLEN TEEN-AGER MAKES HIS DECISION...
IF IT'S SOMETHING THAT OUR COUNTRY NEEDS, HOW CAN I REFUSE? I--I'VE GOTTA BRING THE HULK HERE--IF I CAN!
3

AND SO, A SHORT TIME LATER... AFTER CONVINCING HIMSELF THAT THE TROOPS HAVE NOT FOLLOWED HIM, AND THAT THE SECRET OF THE HIDDEN CAVERN WILL **REMAIN** HIS SECRET, RICK JONES SETS OUT TO FREE THE HULK!

I COULDN'T EXPLAIN TO THEM THAT I CAN'T CONTROL THE HULK! WHEN HE GETS FREE, WHO KNOWS **WHAT** HE'LL DO??

SLOWLY, NERVOUSLY, THE TEEN-AGER RELEASES THE MIGHTY SHAFT WHICH HOLDS THE CONCRETE DOOR IN PLACE! BUT, EVEN BEFORE HE FINISHES...

THE POUNDING--IT'S GETTING LOUDER!

WITH A SURGE OF UNBELIEVABLE POWER, THE MIGHTIEST MAN-THING ON EARTH SHATTERS THE HALF-LOOSENED DOOR AS HE COMES THUNDERING OUT OF HIS DUNGEON!

I'M **FREE!**

YOU! BOY! YOU LOCKED ME IN CELL! YOU PAY FOR THAT NOW!

IF HE GETS A HOLD OF ME, I'M A GONER!

HE'S FOLLOWING ME! NOW IF I CAN JUST LEAD HIM TO THE MISSILE!

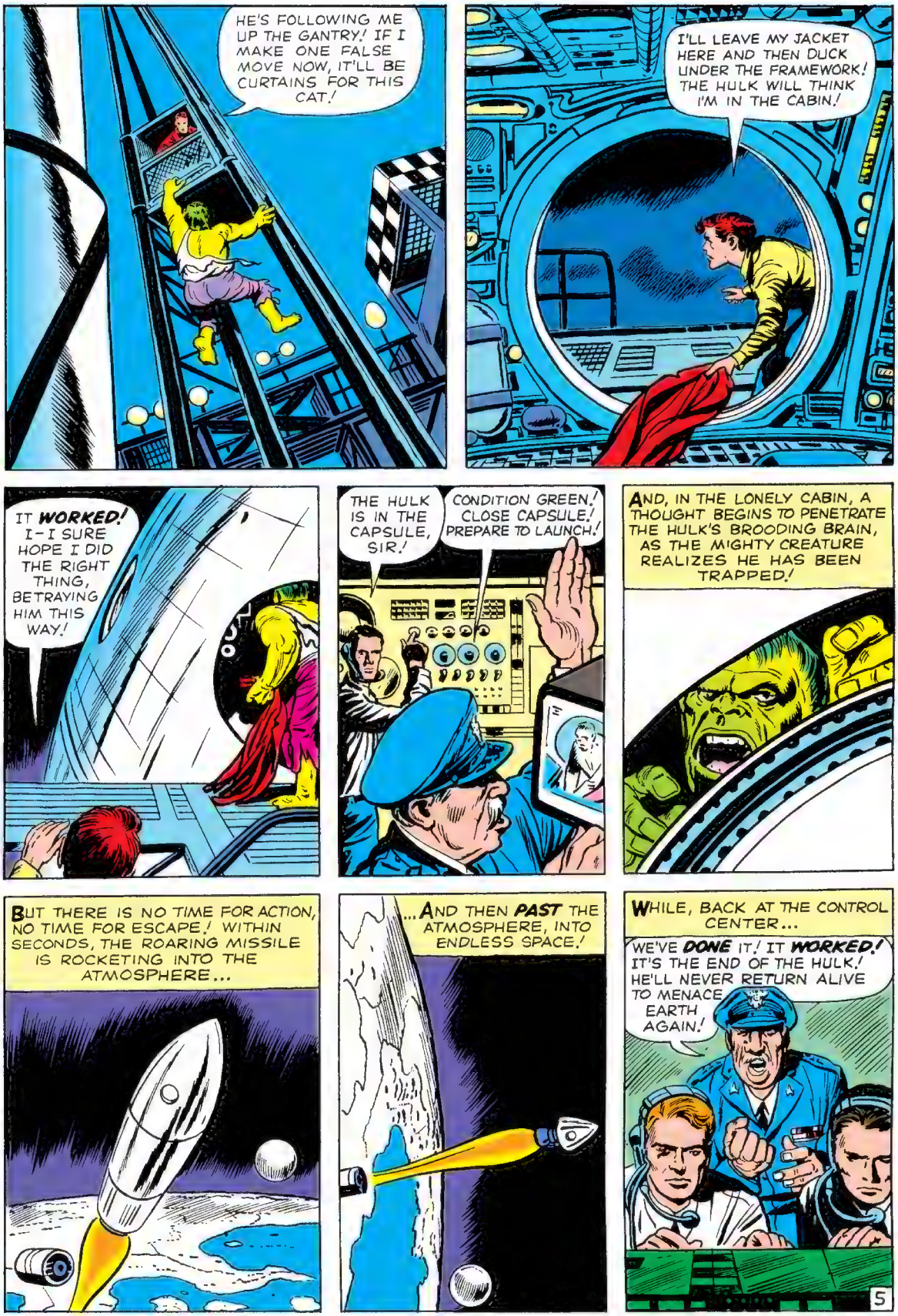
LUCKY FOR ME THAT THE HULK CAN'T **MOVE** TOO FAST!

REACHING THE INSTALLATION, THE HULK'S SHAMBLING FORM IS FOLLOWED EVERY STEP OF THE WAY BY TIGHT-LIPPED TROOPS WITH WEAPONS COCKED!

HIS MASSIVE FORM LUMBERING FORWARD LIKE A DREADNAUGHT, THE HULK BRUSHES ASIDE OBSTACLES WHICH STAND IN HIS WAY AS EASILY AS A MAN MIGHT BRUSH ASIDE A FLY!

GENERAL ROSS! HE'S COMING! THE LAD IS LEADING HIM STRAIGHT TOWARD THE MISSILE!

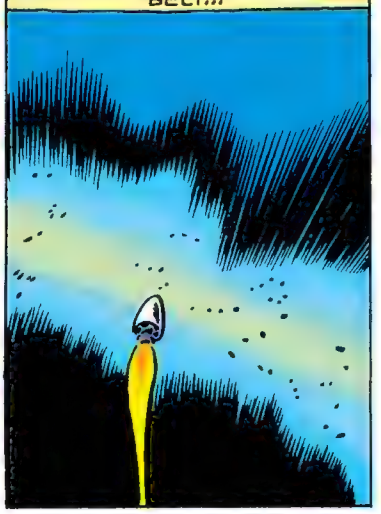
SO FAR SO GOOD!


HE'S FOLLOWING ME UP THE GANTRY! IF I MAKE ONE FALSE MOVE NOW, IT'LL BE CURTAINS FOR THIS CAT!
I'LL LEAVE MY JACKET HERE AND THEN DUCK UNDER THE FRAMEWORK! THE HULK WILL THINK I'M IN THE CABIN!
IT WORKED! I-I SURE HOPE I DID THE RIGHT THING, BETRAYING HIM THIS WAY!
THE HULK IS IN THE CAPSULE, SIR!
CONDITION GREEN! CLOSE CAPSULE! PREPARE TO LAUNCH!
AND, IN THE LONELY CABIN, A THOUGHT BEGINS TO PENETRATE THE HULK'S BROODING BRAIN, AS THE MIGHTY CREATURE REALIZES HE HAS BEEN TRAPPED!
BUT THERE IS NO TIME FOR ACTION, NO TIME FOR ESCAPE! WITHIN SECONDS, THE ROARING MISSILE IS ROCKETING INTO THE ATMOSPHERE...
...AND THEN PAST THE ATMOSPHERE, INTO ENDLESS SPACE!
WHILE, BACK AT THE CONTROL CENTER...
WE'VE DONE IT! IT WORKED! IT'S THE END OF THE HULK! HE'LL NEVER RETURN ALIVE TO MENACE EARTH AGAIN!
5

SUDDENLY, AS THE SPEEDING SHIP HURTLES THRU THE HEAVENS, THE CABIN IS BATHED IN THE WARM, BRIGHT LIGHT OF THE SUN!

SUNLIGHT! THE ONE ELEMENT THAT BRINGS ABOUT THE MOST ASTONISHING CHANGE ON EARTH--THE CHANGE OF THE HULK, BACK AGAIN INTO THE FORM OF DR. BRUCE BANNER!

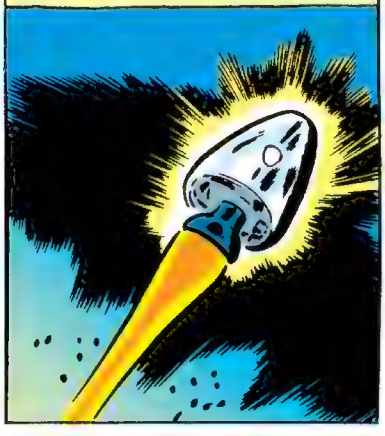
BUT, BEFORE THE DAZED SCIENTIST CAN FULLY COME TO HIS SENSES, THE UNSHIELDED SPACE SHIP ENTERS A VAST RADIATION BELT...



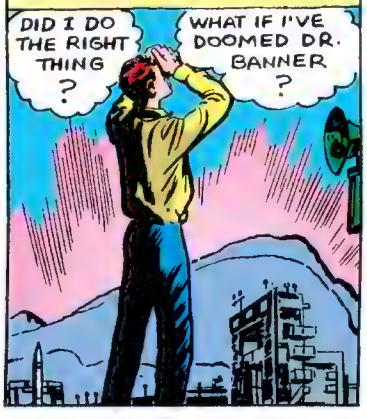
AND ONCE AGAIN BRUCE BANNER'S BODY IS SUBJECTED TO THOSE MYSTERIOUS, POWERFUL RAYS ABOUT WHICH SO LITTLE IS TRULY KNOWN!

RAYS OF INTENSE RADIATION, WITH THE POWER TO EFFECT THE MOST FANTASTIC CHANGES UPON ANYTHING THAT LIVES! RAYS WHICH BATHE BRUCE BANNER'S BODY FOR SECONDS WHICH SEEM LIKE A LIFETIME!

AND THEN, FINALLY, THE TINY CAPSULE BREAKS THRU THE RADIOACTIVE BELT IN ITS UNDIMINISHING RACE AWAY FROM EARTH!

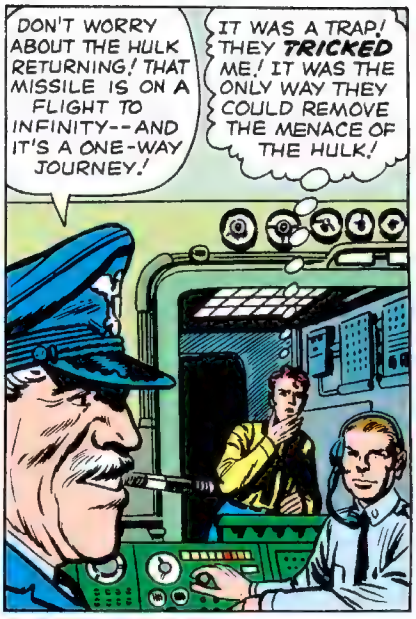


WHILE THOUSANDS OF FEET BELOW, A TENSE TEEN-AGER SCANS THE SKIES, AS ONE NERVE-WRACKING THOUGHT REPEATS AND REPEATS IN HIS BRAIN...



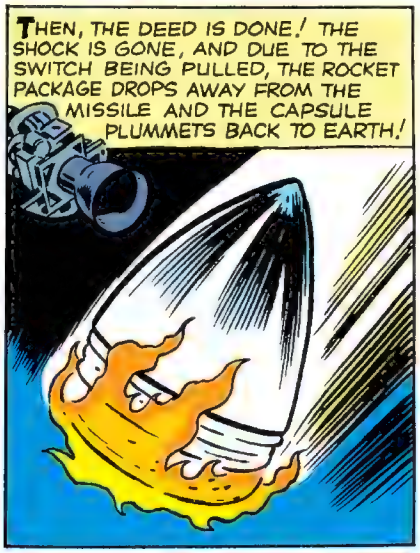
RETURNING WEARILY TO CONTROL CENTRAL, RICK JONES ACCIDENTALLY OVERHEARS GENERAL ROSS...

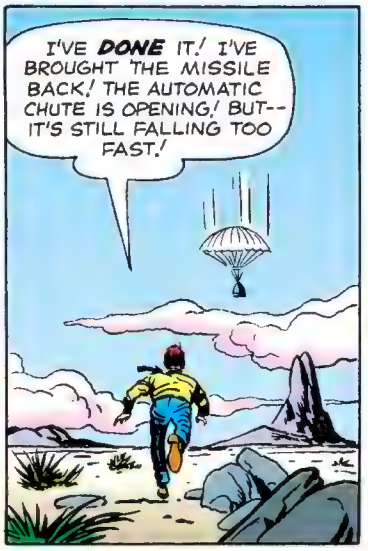
WELL, WE'VE DONE IT! THAT'S THE END OF THE HULK!
LET'S *HOPE* SO, SIR! FOR IF HE EVER RETURNS, HE'LL BE SO FILLED WITH FURY THAT WE'LL *NEVER* BE ABLE TO STOP HIM!
WHA--??


DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE HULK RETURNING! THAT MISSILE IS ON A FLIGHT TO INFINITY--AND IT'S A ONE-WAY JOURNEY!
IT WAS A TRAP! THEY TRICKED ME! IT WAS THE ONLY WAY THEY COULD REMOVE THE MENACE OF THE HULK!

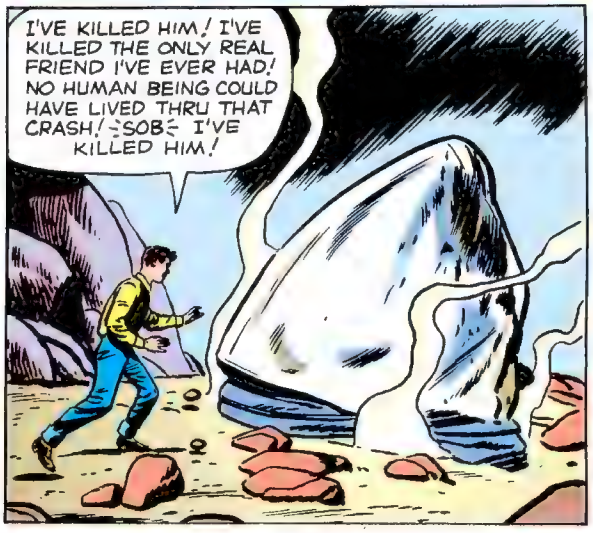
BUT I CAN'T LET THEM DO IT! THEY DON'T REALIZE THAT HE ISN'T REALLY JUST AN INHUMAN MONSTER, TO BE DESTROYED BY ANY MEANS--HE'S BRUCE BANNER--AND I'VE GOT TO SAVE HIM!
HERE'S THE MISSILE CONTROL PANEL! THIS IS MY CHANCE! NO ONE'S LOOKING!

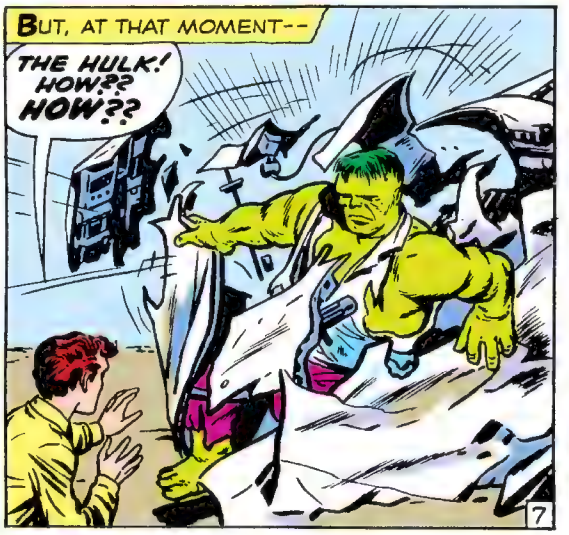
AT THAT SPLIT-SECOND, JUST AS RICK JONES TOUCHES THE CONTROL SWITCH, THE UNBELIEVABLE AMOUNT OF RADIATION WHICH THE SHIP HAS ABSORBED CAUSES A SHOCK TO TRAVEL THE MANY, MANY MILES BACK TO EARTH--AN ELECTRIC SHOCK WHICH WILL LINK THE HULK AND RICK JONES MORE CLOSELY TOGETHER THAN EVER BEFORE!
OWW!


THEN, THE DEED IS DONE! THE SHOCK IS GONE, AND DUE TO THE SWITCH BEING PULLED, THE ROCKET PACKAGE DROPS AWAY FROM THE MISSILE AND THE CAPSULE PLUMMETS BACK TO EARTH!


I'VE DONE IT! I'VE BROUGHT THE MISSILE BACK! THE AUTOMATIC CHUTE IS OPENING! BUT--IT'S STILL FALLING TOO FAST!

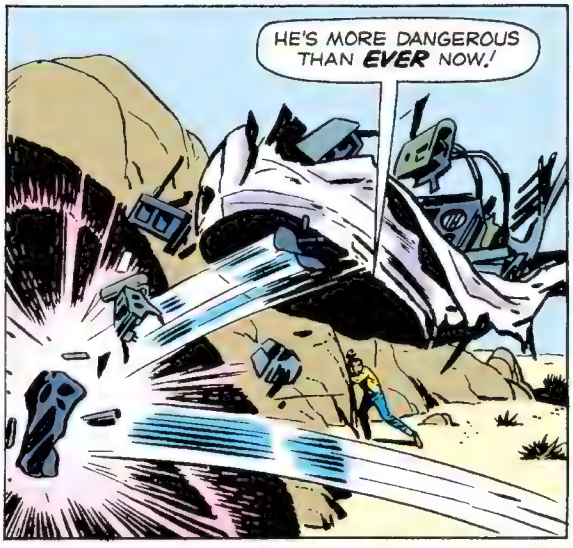
IT'S DAYLIGHT NOW! BRUCE BANNER WILL BE IN THE CAPSULE, INSTEAD OF THE HULK! HE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO SURVIVE A CRASH LANDING! -GASP- IT'S TOO LATE!
CRASH

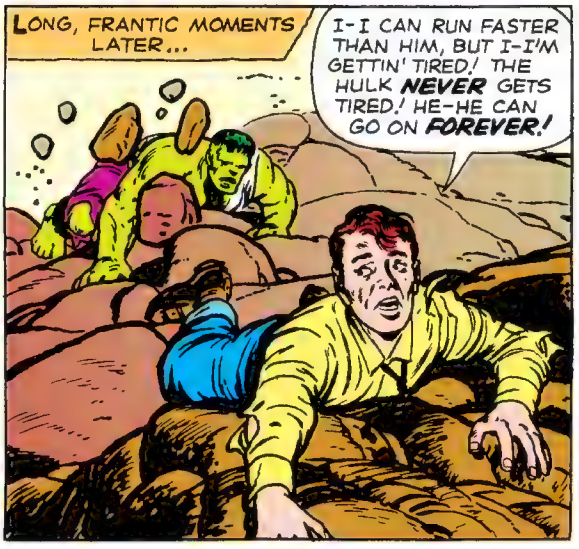

I'VE KILLED HIM! I'VE KILLED THE ONLY REAL FRIEND I'VE EVER HAD! NO HUMAN BEING COULD HAVE LIVED THRU THAT CRASH! -SOB- I'VE KILLED HIM!

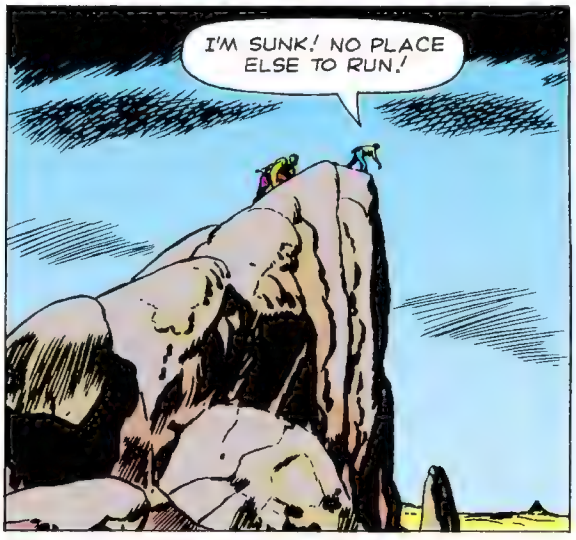

BUT, AT THAT MOMENT--
THE HULK! HOW?? HOW??

IT-IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! YOU CAN'T BE THE HULK IN DAYLIGHT! YOU SHOULD HAVE CHANGED TO DR. BANNER BY NOW! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU UP THERE?? WHY-WHY ARE YOU GLOWING THAT WAY???

AS EFFORTLESSLY AS A MAN WOULD LIFT A CARDBOARD BOX, THE MIGHTY HULK LIFTS THE WRECKED SPACE CAPSULE, AND...
YOUR FAULT! ALL YOUR FAULT!
I GOTTA RUN! GOTTA GET AWAY!


HE'S MORE DANGEROUS THAN EVER NOW!


LONG, FRANTIC MOMENTS LATER...
I-I CAN RUN FASTER THAN HIM, BUT I-I'M GETTIN' TIRED! THE HULK NEVER GETS TIRED! HE-HE CAN GO ON FOREVER!


I'M SUNK! NO PLACE ELSE TO RUN!

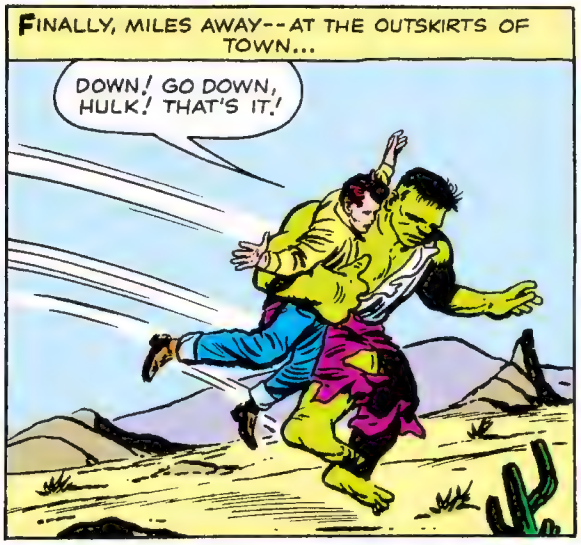
NOW-- REVENGE!!!
NO! NO!

STAY BACK! PLEASE -- STOP! -- HUH? HE- HE STOPPED!
HE'S STANDING STILL --MOTIONLESS! I-I SAID STOP, AND HE STOPPED!
HE'S STANDING THERE, ALMOST LIKE A ROBOT! AS THOUGH AWAITING MY NEXT COMMAND! I'VE GOT TO TEST HIM!
YOUR HAND, HULK--RAISE YOUR HAND!
NOW SIT DOWN! THAT'S IT-- SIT!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! BUT IT'S TRUE! HE OBEYS ME! MY EVERY COMMAND!
BEND DOWN NOW, HULK! I NEED A LIFT DOWN THE MOUNTAIN! THAT'S IT--BEND--
WHAT COULD HAVE CAUSED IT?? WHAT... WAIT! I KNOW! THAT SHOCK WHEN I PULLED THE SWITCH! THAT WAS IT!
SOMEHOW, IN SOME WAY I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND, A CURRENT RAN FROM THE HULK, IN THE CAPSULE TO ME DOWN AT THE GROUND! MAYBE IT HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE RADIATION BELT UP THERE!
BUT, WHATEVER IT WAS, IT'S MADE THE HULK MY SERVANT! I'M HIS MASTER -- ME, RICK JONES, MASTER OF THE MIGHTIEST CREATURE ON EARTH!

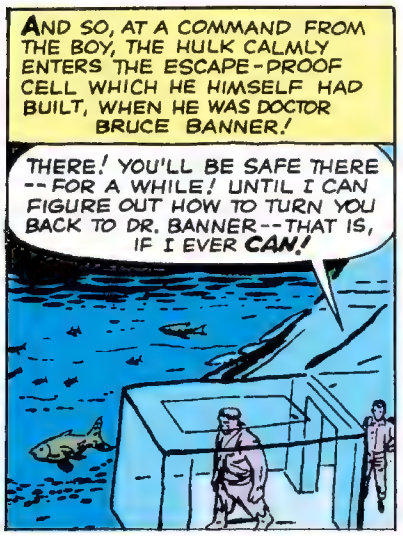
BUT WHAT ABOUT DR. BANNER? WHEN WILL HE CHANGE BACK TO HIS TRUE SELF?? OR--WILL HE EVER CHANGE BACK??
THERE'S MY CABIN! I'VE GOT TO THINK THIS OUT--GOT TO FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO NEXT!
STAY THERE, HULK, WHILE I GET SOME SHUTEYE! DON'T MOVE --UNDERSTAND? DON'T MOVE!
BUT, A FEW MINUTES LATER, RICK AWAKENS WITH A START...
I HEARD SOMETHING! HEY! THE HULK! HE'S GONE!
IT IS AN EASY MATTER FOR THE BOY TO FOLLOW THE HULK'S TRAIL--AN AWESOME TRAIL LEADING STRAIGHT INTO TOWN!
MY CONTROL OVER HIM MUST END WHEN I FALL ASLEEP! HE ONLY OBEYS ME WHEN I'M AWAKE! BUT NOW I GOTTA GET TO HIM, BEFORE HE RUNS AMOK!
I'M JUST IN TIME! THERE HE IS! HE'S GOING ON A RAMPAGE!
WHAT'LL I DO?? I CAN'T GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO HIM! HE CAN'T HEAR ME!
AND THEN, THE HEAVILY ARMED STATE TROOPERS APPEAR ON THE SCENE, BUT EVEN THEIR AUTOMATIC FIREARMS CANNOT HALT THE MIGHTY HULK!
WE'RE FORCING HIM BACK!
YEAH, BUT WE'RE NOT HURTIN' HIM! WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE RUN OUT OF AMMO??
POW! POW! POW! POW!
10

BUT THE TROOPERS' FIRE SLOWS THE HULK UP ENOUGH TO GIVE RICK A CHANCE TO LEAP INTO ACTION...
HULK! WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE! DO YA HEAR ME?? GET OUTTA HERE! FAST!
I--HEAR!

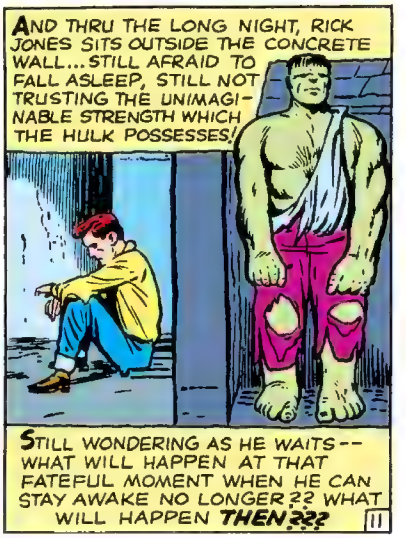
GATHERING THE AWE-STRICKEN LAD IN ONE MASSIVE ARM, THE HULK LEAPS INTO THE AIR! BUT IT IS A LEAP THE LIKE OF WHICH HAS NEVER BEFORE BEEN SEEN BY MORTAL MAN! A LEAP WHICH CARRIES HIM OVER THE TOP OF THE TALLEST BUILDING! A LEAP PROPELLED BY THE MOST POWERFUL MUSCLES OF ANY LIVING THING ON EARTH!
WE-WE'RE FLYIN'!!!

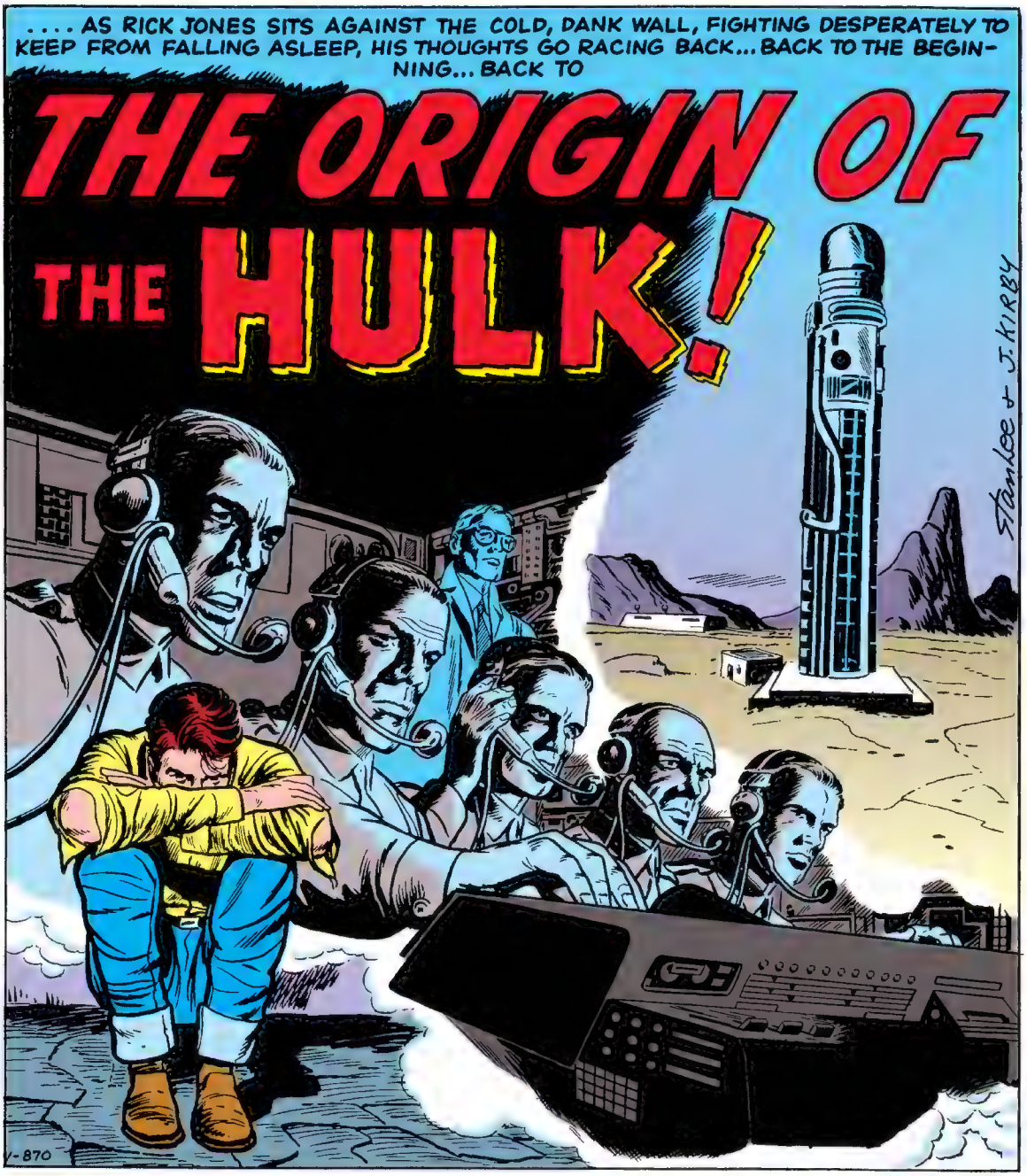

FINALLY, MILES AWAY--AT THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN...
DOWN! GO DOWN, HULK! THAT'S IT!

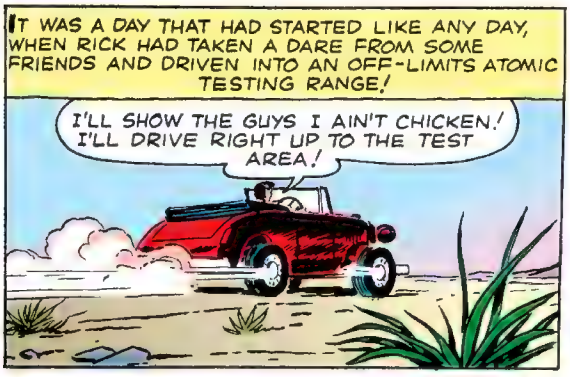
IT'S TOO MUCH FOR ME! I'VE GOT THE MOST POWERFUL THING IN THE WORLD UNDER MY CONTROL, AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH IT! BUT ONE THING I DO KNOW--I DON'T DARE GO TO SLEEP AGAIN, UNLESS HE'S LOCKED UP BACK IN HIS DUNGEON!

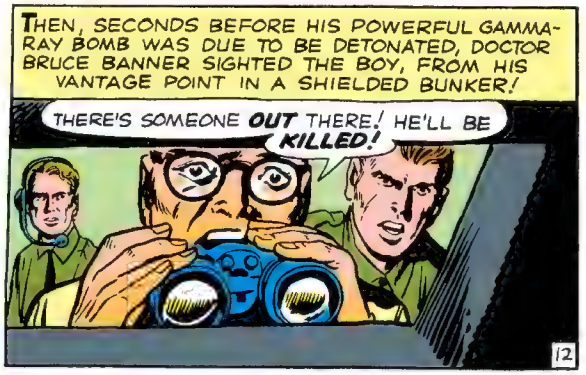

AND SO, AT A COMMAND FROM THE BOY, THE HULK CALMLY ENTERS THE ESCAPE-PROOF CELL WHICH HE HIMSELF HAD BUILT, WHEN HE WAS DOCTOR BRUCE BANNER!
THERE! YOU'LL BE SAFE THERE--FOR A WHILE! UNTIL I CAN FIGURE OUT HOW TO TURN YOU BACK TO DR. BANNER--THAT IS, IF I EVER CAN!

SLOWLY, PONDEROUSLY, THE MASSIVE DOOR CLOSES, AS THE THING WHICH IS THE HULK WATCHES SILENTLY, WITH NO TRACE OF EXPRESSION ON HIS COLD, UNBLINKING EYES!
LUCKY I WAS ABLE TO REPLACE THIS SHATTERED STEEL RAMROD!


AND THRU THE LONG NIGHT, RICK JONES SITS OUTSIDE THE CONCRETE WALL... STILL AFRAID TO FALL ASLEEP, STILL NOT TRUSTING THE UNIMAGINABLE STRENGTH WHICH THE HULK POSSESSES!
STILL WONDERING AS HE WAITS--WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT THAT FATEFUL MOMENT WHEN HE CAN STAY AWAKE NO LONGER?? WHAT WILL HAPPEN THEN???


. . . . AS RICK JONES SITS AGAINST THE COLD, DANK WALL, FIGHTING DESPERATELY TO KEEP FROM FALLING ASLEEP, HIS THOUGHTS GO RACING BACK... BACK TO THE BEGINNING... BACK TO
THE ORIGIN OF THE HULK!
STAN LEE & J. KIRBY
V-870


IT WAS A DAY THAT HAD STARTED LIKE ANY DAY, WHEN RICK HAD TAKEN A DARE FROM SOME FRIENDS AND DRIVEN INTO AN OFF-LIMITS ATOMIC TESTING RANGE!
I'LL SHOW THE GUYS I AIN'T CHICKEN! I'LL DRIVE RIGHT UP TO THE TEST AREA!


THEN, SECONDS BEFORE HIS POWERFUL GAMMA-RAY BOMB WAS DUE TO BE DETONATED, DOCTOR BRUCE BANNER SIGHTED THE BOY, FROM HIS VANTAGE POINT IN A SHIELDED BUNKER!
THERE'S SOMEONE OUT THERE! HE'LL BE KILLED!
12

UNMINDFUL OF HIS OWN SAFETY, THE WORLD-FAMOUS NUCLEAR SCIENTIST DASHED TO THE TEEN-AGER AND SPED WITH HIM TOWARDS A NEARBY TRENCH!
HEY! HOLD IT, DADDY-O! WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA!
NO TIME TO MAKE IT BACK TO THE BUNKER! BUT THERE'S A DITCH OVER THERE!
FRANTICALLY, DR. BANNER HURLED RICK JONES INTO THE CREVICE, WHERE THE TEEN-AGER WAS SHIELDED FROM THE MYSTERIOUS, MENACING GAMMA RAYS! BUT, AT THAT SECOND...
UGH! THE BLAST!
STANDING IN THE OPEN, EXPOSED AND UNSHELTERED, THE HEROIC BRUCE BANNER ABSORBED THE FULL IMPACT OF THE NUCLEAR EXPLOSION, EVEN THOUGH THE CENTER OF THE BLAST WAS A GOOD FIVE MILES AWAY!
HIS EAR-PIERCING SCREAMS FILLED THE DESERT AIR, AS THE SCIENTIST LOST ALL SENSE OF TIME AND SPACE... AS A STRANGE, AWESOME CHANGE TOOK PLACE IN THE ATOMIC STRUCTURE OF HIS BODY!
A SHORT TIME LATER, DR. BANNER REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS IN A ROOM AT THE BASE HOSPITAL, WITH THE BOY WHOSE LIFE HE HAD SAVED STANDING BY! THE BOY, RICK JONES, WHO WAS DESTINED NEVER TO LEAVE HIM AGAIN!
YOU--YOU SAVED MY LIFE, DR. BANNER! I'LL NEVER FORGET IT!
THE BLAST! THE NOISE! THE RAYS! WHAT HAPPENED TO ME? WHAT HAPPENED?
AND THEN, AS THE SUN SET, AS THOUGH IN ANSWER TO BRUCE BANNER'S ANGUISHED QUESTION, THE GEIGER COUNTER, ON A NEARBY TABLE, BEGAN TO TICK LOUDER--AND LOUDER--
CLICK
CLICK
AND LOUDER--AND LOUDER--
CLICK
CLICK
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AND LOUDER--
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CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
UNTIL THE MAN WHO HAD BEEN DOCTOR BRUCE BANNER HAD TURNED INTO THE MOST DANGEROUS LIVING CREATURE ON EARTH--THE INCREDIBLE --HULK!
13

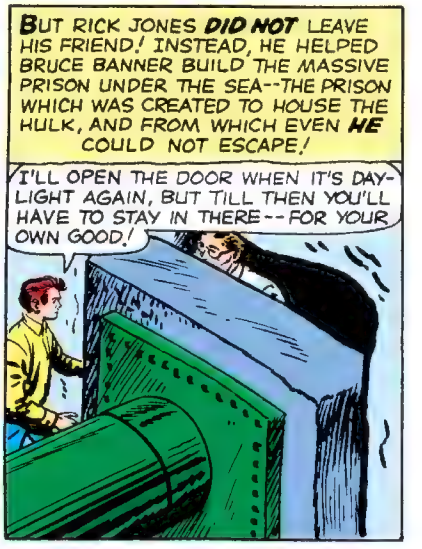
THE HULK! MIGHTIER THAN A BATTERING RAM!

THE HULK! MORE DANGEROUS THAN A RUNAWAY TORNADO!

THE HULK! AS UNCONTROLLABLE AS THE VERY FORCES OF NATURE HERSELF! FOE OF EVERY HUMAN BEING ON EARTH!

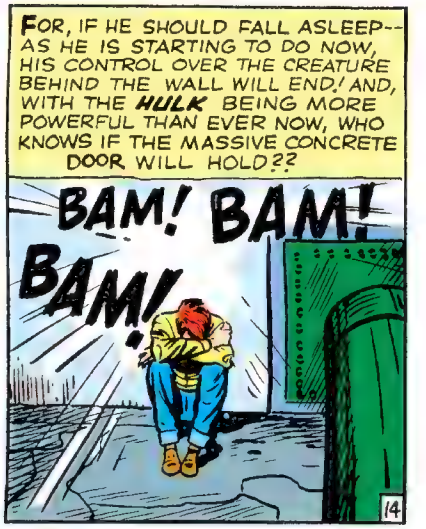
ONLY ONE OTHER LIVING PERSON KNEW THE SECRET OF THE HULK'S TRUE IDENTITY--AND THAT PERSON WAS RICK JONES, WHO REFUSED TO DESERT HIM, NO MATTER WHAT HE HAD TURNED INTO!
WAIT! WAIT FOR ME! I'M GOING WITH YOU! YOU--YOU NEED ME!

ONLY RICK JONES KNEW THAT WITH THE COMING OF DAWN, THE HULK AGAIN BECAME DR. BRUCE BANNER--THE MAN WHO SAVED HIS LIFE!
YOU MUST LEAVE ME, RICK! I CAN'T CONTROL MYSELF WHEN I BECOME THE HULK! EVEN YOU WON'T BE SAFE!


BUT RICK JONES DID NOT LEAVE HIS FRIEND! INSTEAD, HE HELPED BRUCE BANNER BUILD THE MASSIVE PRISON UNDER THE SEA--THE PRISON WHICH WAS CREATED TO HOUSE THE HULK, AND FROM WHICH EVEN HE COULD NOT ESCAPE!
I'LL OPEN THE DOOR WHEN IT'S DAYLIGHT AGAIN, BUT TILL THEN YOU'LL HAVE TO STAY IN THERE--FOR YOUR OWN GOOD!

AND NONE BUT RICK JONES KNOWS WHERE THE MIGHTY HULK IS IMPRISONED--AND NONE BUT RICK CAN SET HIM FREE!

ALL THIS FLASHES THRU THE WEARY TEEN-AGER'S MEMORY AS HE SITS AGAINST THE DUNGEON DOOR, FRANTICALLY PRAYING THAT HE WILL STAY AWAKE...


FOR, IF HE SHOULD FALL ASLEEP--AS HE IS STARTING TO DO NOW, HIS CONTROL OVER THE CREATURE BEHIND THE WALL WILL END! AND, WITH THE HULK BEING MORE POWERFUL THAN EVER NOW, WHO KNOWS IF THE MASSIVE CONCRETE DOOR WILL HOLD??
BAM! BAM! BAM!

WILL THE MIGHTY HULK BE A MATCH FOR
the RINGMASTER
Stan Lee & J. KIRBY
NOTHING THAT LIVES CAN DEFY ME! FOR I HAVE THE POWER TO SAP MEN'S WILL!! SOON ALL THE WORLD WILL PAY HOMAGE TO... THE RING-MASTER!
AND NOW, LET US LEAVE RICK JONES AND TURN OUR ATTENTION TO A NEW MENACE WHICH APPEARS ON THE SCENE! A MENACE SUCH AS THE WORLD HAS NEVER KNOWN!
IT BEGINS LIKE THIS...
V-871
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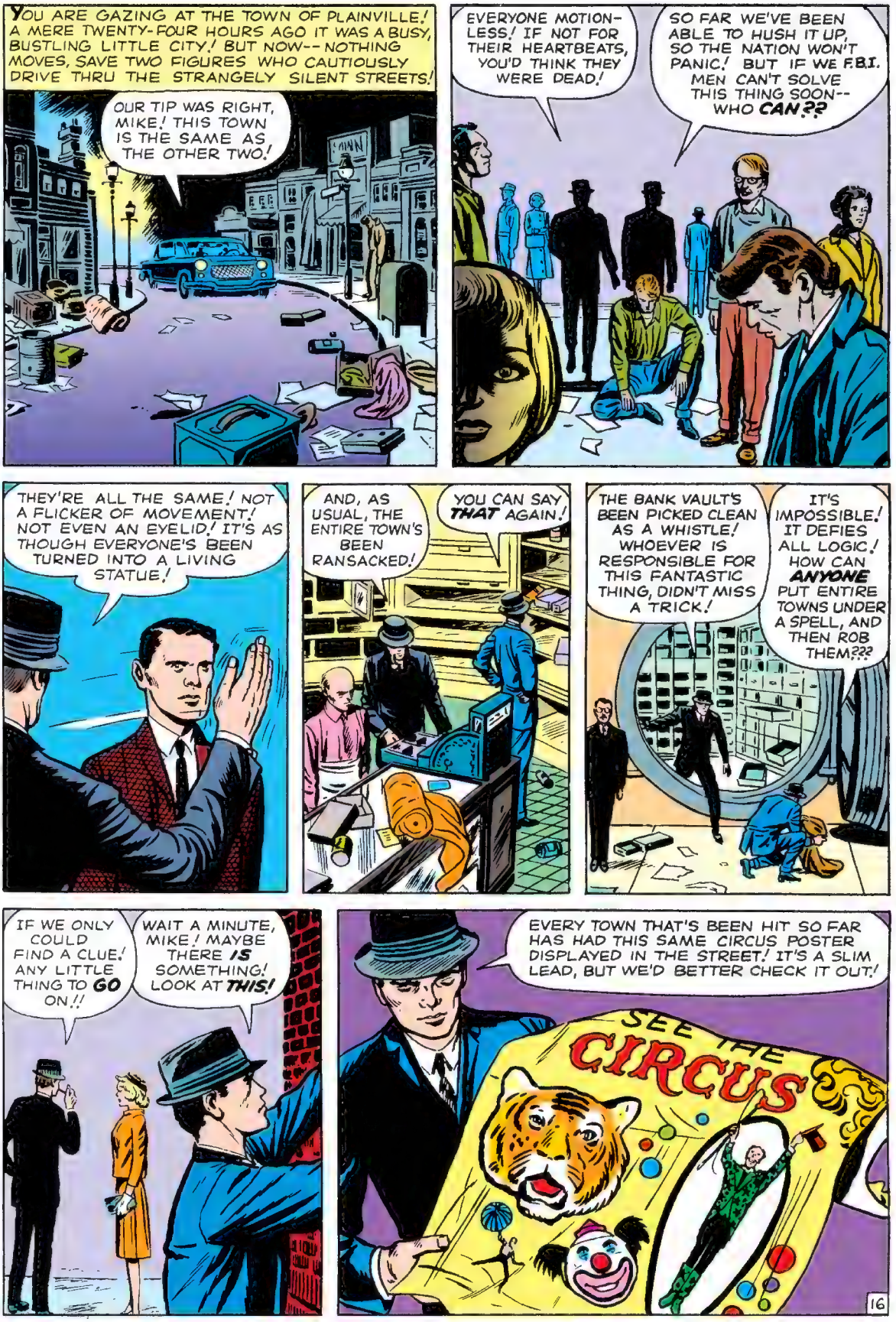
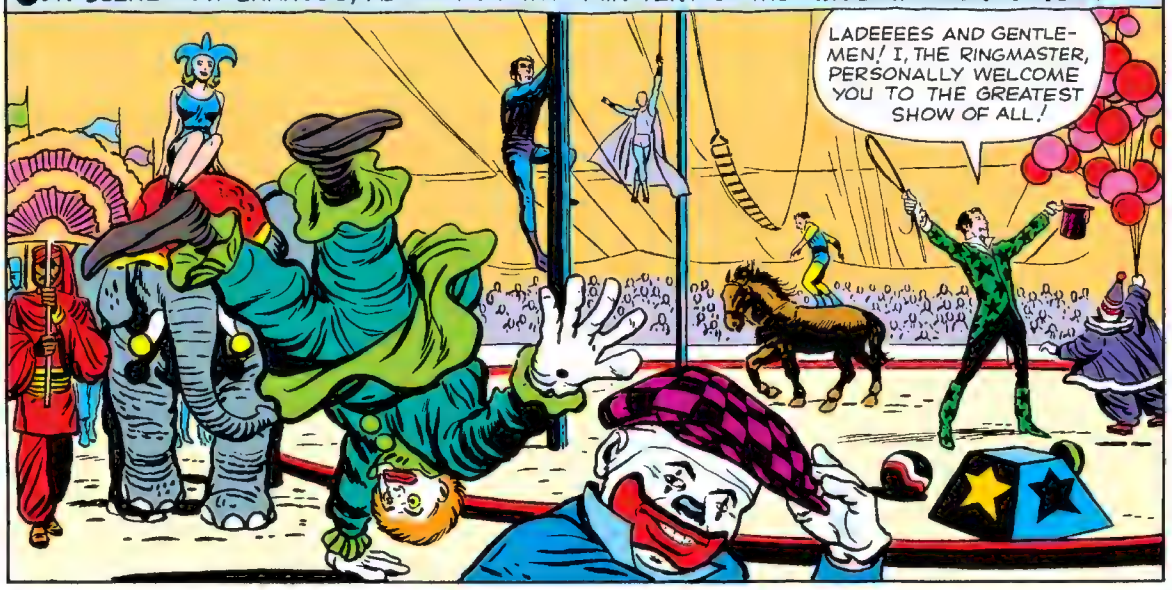
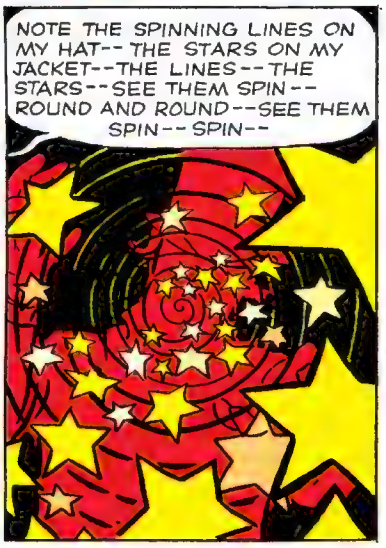

YOU ARE GAZING AT THE TOWN OF PLAINVILLE! A MERE TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AGO IT WAS A BUSY, BUSTLING LITTLE CITY! BUT NOW-- NOTHING MOVES, SAVE TWO FIGURES WHO CAUTIOUSLY DRIVE THRU THE STRANGELY SILENT STREETS!
OUR TIP WAS RIGHT, MIKE! THIS TOWN IS THE SAME AS THE OTHER TWO!
EVERYONE MOTIONLESS! IF NOT FOR THEIR HEARTBEATS, YOU'D THINK THEY WERE DEAD!
SO FAR WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO HUSH IT UP, SO THE NATION WON'T PANIC! BUT IF WE F.B.I. MEN CAN'T SOLVE THIS THING SOON-- WHO CAN??
THEY'RE ALL THE SAME! NOT A FLICKER OF MOVEMENT! NOT EVEN AN EYELID! IT'S AS THOUGH EVERYONE'S BEEN TURNED INTO A LIVING STATUE!
AND, AS USUAL, THE ENTIRE TOWN'S BEEN RANSACKED!
YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN!
THE BANK VAULT'S BEEN PICKED CLEAN AS A WHISTLE! WHOEVER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS FANTASTIC THING, DIDN'T MISS A TRICK!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! IT DEFIES ALL LOGIC! HOW CAN ANYONE PUT ENTIRE TOWNS UNDER A SPELL, AND THEN ROB THEM???
IF WE ONLY COULD FIND A CLUE! ANY LITTLE THING TO GO ON!!
WAIT A MINUTE, MIKE! MAYBE THERE IS SOMETHING! LOOK AT THIS!
EVERY TOWN THAT'S BEEN HIT SO FAR HAS HAD THIS SAME CIRCUS POSTER DISPLAYED IN THE STREET! IT'S A SLIM LEAD, BUT WE'D BETTER CHECK IT OUT!
SEE THE CIRCUS
16

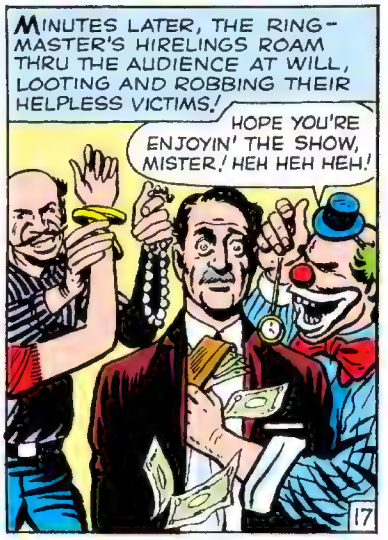
OUR SCENE NOW CHANGES, AS WE VISIT THE MAIN TENT OF THE **RINGMASTER CIRCUS!**

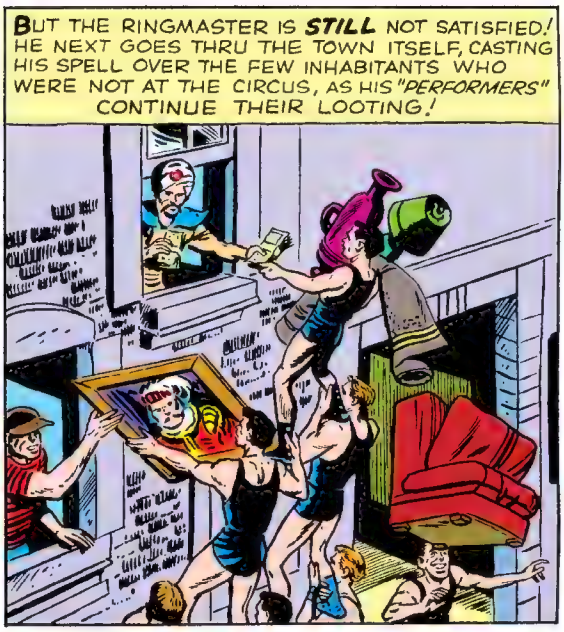


WATCH ME CLOSELY EVERY MINUTE! DO NOT TAKE YOUR EYES OFF ME FOR A SECOND, AND I GUARANTEE THAT YOU WILL SEE WONDERS SUCH AS YOU HAVE NEVER SEEN BEFORE!


NOTE THE SPINNING LINES ON MY HAT--THE STARS ON MY JACKET--THE LINES--THE STARS--SEE THEM SPIN--ROUND AND ROUND--SEE THEM SPIN--SPIN--

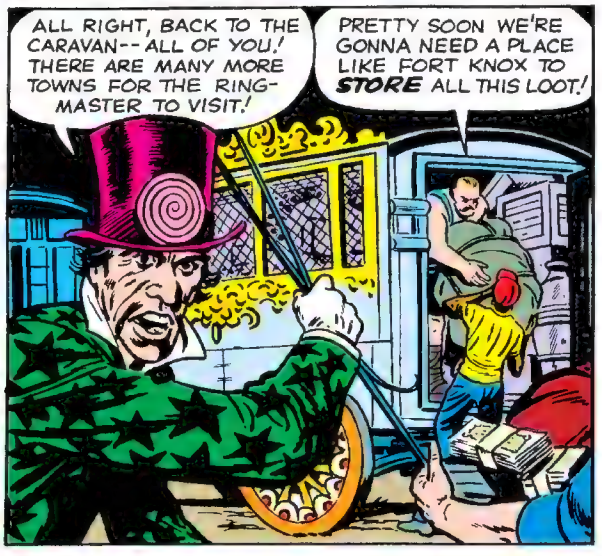
IT IS **OVER!** I HAVE BENT THEM TO MY WILL, JUST AS I HAVE DONE IN THOSE OTHER TOWNS WE VISITED! THEY ARE ALL ASLEEP--THEY CANNOT MOVE, NOR SPEAK!

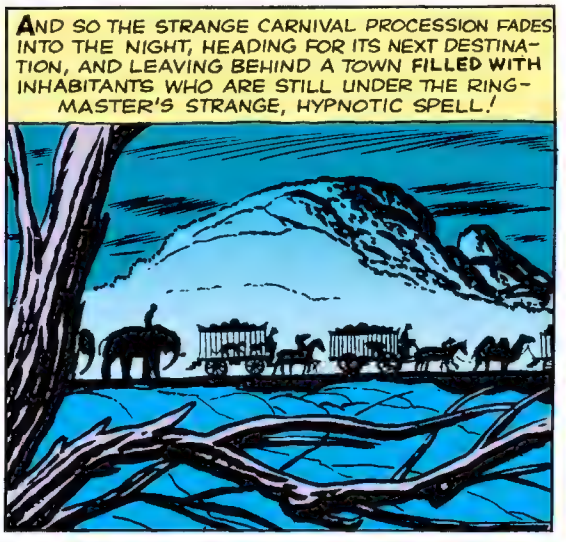

MINUTES LATER, THE RINGMASTER'S HIRELINGS ROAM THRU THE AUDIENCE AT WILL, LOOTING AND ROBBING THEIR HELPLESS VICTIMS!
HOPE YOU'RE ENJOYIN' THE SHOW, MISTER! HEH HEH HEH!


BUT THE RINGMASTER IS STILL NOT SATISFIED! HE NEXT GOES THRU THE TOWN ITSELF, CASTING HIS SPELL OVER THE FEW INHABITANTS WHO WERE NOT AT THE CIRCUS, AS HIS "PERFORMERS" CONTINUE THEIR LOOTING!

Y'KNOW, BRUTO, THIS IS ALMOST TOO EASY!
JUST KEEP PEDDLIN', DOLL!

WAIT A MINUTE, TEENA! HERE ARE SOME MORE BRACELETS AND NECKLACES YOU CAN CARRY!
FENWICK JEWELRY


ALL RIGHT, BACK TO THE CARAVAN--ALL OF YOU! THERE ARE MANY MORE TOWNS FOR THE RINGMASTER TO VISIT!
PRETTY SOON WE'RE GONNA NEED A PLACE LIKE FORT KNOX TO STORE ALL THIS LOOT!

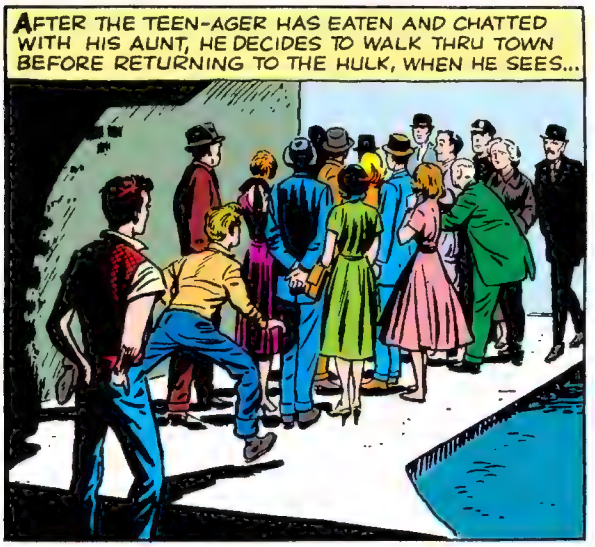

AND SO THE STRANGE CARNIVAL PROCESSION FADES INTO THE NIGHT, HEADING FOR ITS NEXT DESTINATION, AND LEAVING BEHIND A TOWN FILLED WITH INHABITANTS WHO ARE STILL UNDER THE RINGMASTER'S STRANGE, HYPNOTIC SPELL!

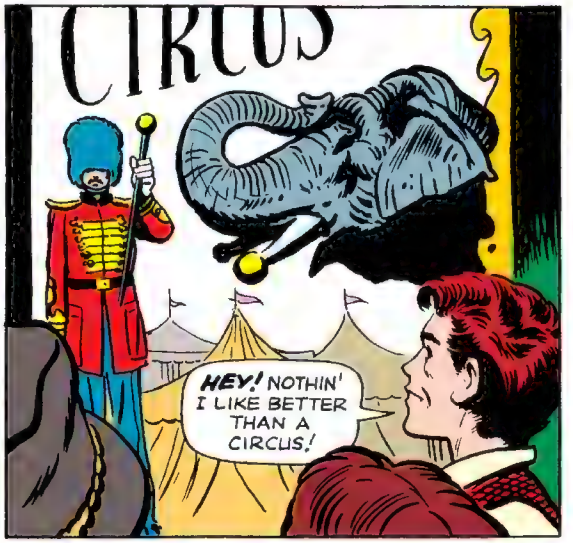
BUT WHAT HAS ALL THIS TO DO WITH THE HULK? WELL, LET US SEE...
I DID IT! (YAWN) I MANAGED TO STAY AWAKE ALL NIGHT! SO THE HULK DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE TO RUN WILD!

BUT WHAT DO I DO NOW? I GOTTA FIND A PLACE TO GET SOME FOOD-- TO WASH UP! THE HULK WILL BE SAFE ENOUGH HERE, AS LONG AS I STAY AWAKE!
GUESS I'LL GO VISIT MY AUNT POLLY! SHE DOESN'T LIVE FAR FROM HERE!

A SHORT TIME LATER...
LAND SAKES, BOY! IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE I'VE SEEN YOU! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
REAL BUSY, AUNT POLLY!

BUT YOU WOULDN'T BE INTERESTED IN THE DETAILS!
GO ALONG WITH YOU, RICK JONES! I CERTAINLY WOULD BE INTERESTED, BUT I KNOW A BODY CAN'T EVER MAKE YOU TALK WHEN YOU DON'T WANT TO!


AFTER THE TEEN-AGER HAS EATEN AND CHATTED WITH HIS AUNT, HE DECIDES TO WALK THRU TOWN BEFORE RETURNING TO THE HULK, WHEN HE SEES...


CIRCUS
HEY! NOTHIN' I LIKE BETTER THAN A CIRCUS!

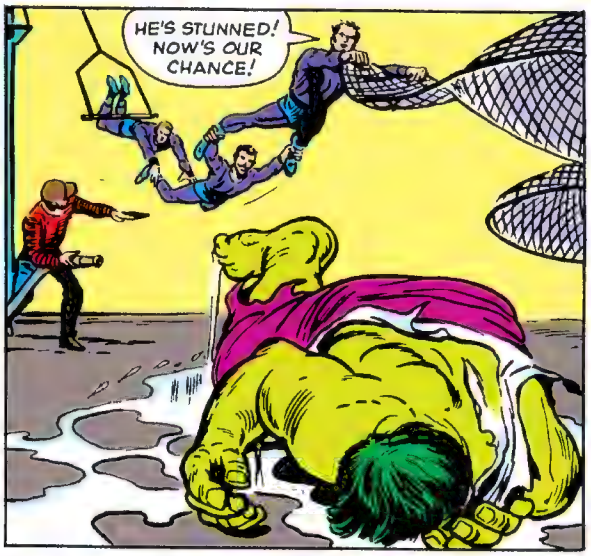
AND SO, FATE TIGHTENS HER LITTLE WEB...
I, THE RINGMASTER, PERSONALLY WELCOME YOU TO THE GREATEST SHOW OF ALL!

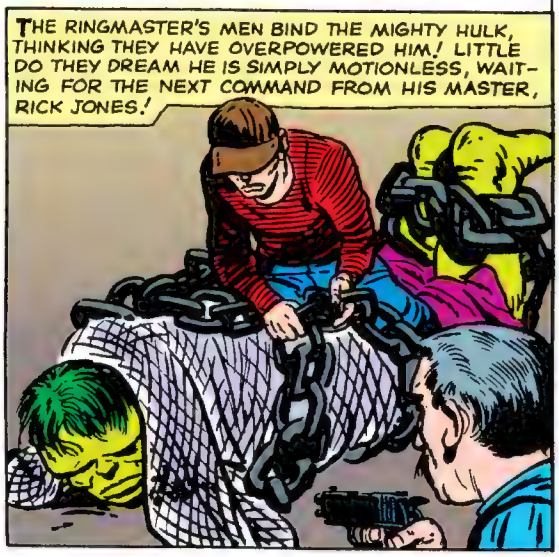
REMEMBER, DO NOT TAKE YOUR EYES OFF ME FOR A SECOND... WATCH--BEHOLD--

SEE THEM SPIN ROUND, AND ROUND, AND ROUND--

AND, THIS TIME, AMONG HIS HELPLESS VICTIMS, THE RING-MASTER UNWITTINGLY NUMBERS ONE TEEN-AGE BOY-- A BOY WHO HAS THE HULK TO COMMAND!
I-I CAN'T MOVE! CAN'T SPEAK! HE-HE'S HYPNOTIZED US ALL!
BUT RICK JONES IS NOT HELPLESS! NOT SO LONG AS HE HAS THE POWER TO THINK!
I-I'M BEGINNING TO FEEL NUMB! MY BRAIN IS GETTING CLOUDED! I'VE GOT TO CALL THE HULK BEFORE I BLACK OUT! COME TO ME, HULK! HELP! COME, HULK!
BUT, CAN HE HEAR MY THOUGHTS FROM SO FAR AWAY?? HE MUST! HE MUST!
AND HE DOES!
BOY IN DANGER! MUST GO TO HIM!
LIKE A FANTASTIC FLYING DREADNAUGHT, THE MASSIVE CREATURE HURTLES THRU THE AIR AND PLUMMETS DOWN TOWARDS THE CIRCUS TENT, DIRECTED BY RICK'S THOUGHT WAVES!
WHAT IS-- THAT ??!
LOOK! THERE'S SOMEONE WHO THE RING-MASTER DIDN'T HYPNOTIZE!
JUST AIM ME TOWARDS HIM, PAL! I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE BIG OX!
HUMAN CANNONBALL
POW
20

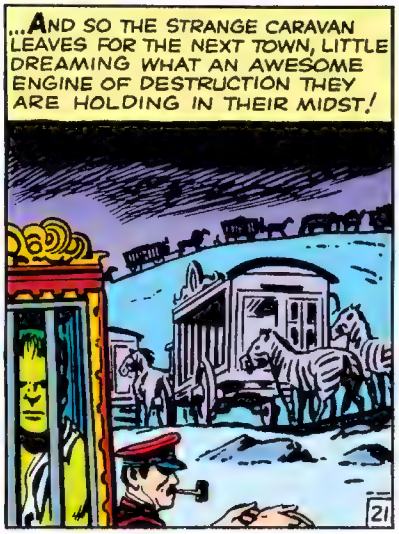
QUICKLY! THE POWER HOSE! NOTHING THAT LIVES CAN WITHSTAND ITS PRESSURE!
COMIN', BOSS!


HE'S STUNNED! NOW'S OUR CHANCE!

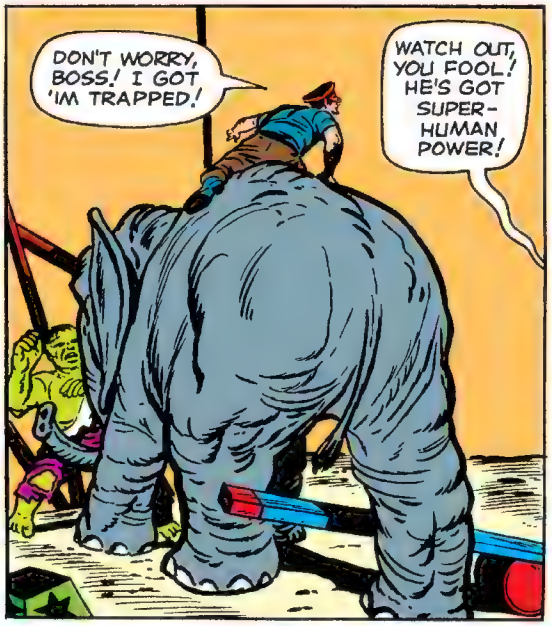

THE RINGMASTER'S MEN BIND THE MIGHTY HULK, THINKING THEY HAVE OVERPOWERED HIM! LITTLE DO THEY DREAM HE IS SIMPLY MOTIONLESS, WAITING FOR THE NEXT COMMAND FROM HIS MASTER, RICK JONES!

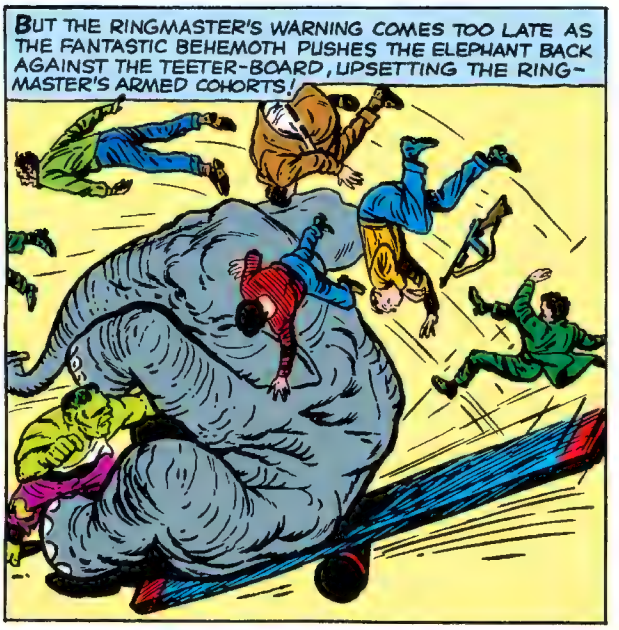
WANT ME TO FINISH HIM OFF, BOSS?
NO! I HAVE A BETTER IDEA!

AND, AS RICK JONES REMAINS IN A HYPNOTIZED STATE, NEITHER CONSCIOUS NOR YET ASLEEP, THE RINGMASTER'S MEN CARRY THE MOTIONLESS HULK TO ONE OF THEIR CIRCUS WAGONS...


...AND SO THE STRANGE CARAVAN LEAVES FOR THE NEXT TOWN, LITTLE DREAMING WHAT AN AWESOME ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION THEY ARE HOLDING IN THEIR MIDST!
21

AND A DAY LATER, THE RINGMASTER PREPARES TO OPEN A NEW SHOW, IN A NEW VILLAGE -- WITH A STARTLING NEW FEATURE EXHIBIT!
WE'LL BILL HIM AS THE MONSTER OF THE AGE! THE SUCKERS WON'T BE ABLE TO RESIST COMIN' TO SEE THE BIG APE!
RING-MASTER, YOU'RE A GENIUS!
AND SO THE SHOW BEGINS, AS THE RING-MASTER WAITS FOR THE MOMENT TO CAST HIS SINISTER HYPNOTIC SPELL!
LADEEEES AND GENTLEMEN...
WHEN SUDDENLY...
RINGMASTER, YOU'RE UNDER ARREST! THIS IS THE F.B.I.!
WE FOLLOWED YOU FROM TOWN TO TOWN, AND NOW WE'VE GOT YOU!
YOUR VICTIMS TOLD US EVERYTHING WHEN WE SNAPPED THEM OUT OF YOUR SPELL!
NEVER MIND THAT! WHERE'S THE HULK? YOU'RE TRAVELLIN' WITH A LIVE BOMB!
AND, AT THAT VERY INSTANT, AT THE SOUND OF RICK'S VOICE, THE MIGHTIEST LIVING THING ON EARTH SNAPS HIS CHAINS AS A HUMAN WOULD SNAP A TOOTHPICK!
RUN! THE MONSTER IS LOOSE!
22


DON'T WORRY, BOSS! I GOT 'IM TRAPPED!
WATCH OUT, YOU FOOL! HE'S GOT SUPER-HUMAN POWER!


BUT THE RINGMASTER'S WARNING COMES TOO LATE AS THE FANTASTIC BEHEMOTH PUSHES THE ELEPHANT BACK AGAINST THE TEETER-BOARD, UPSETTING THE RING-MASTER'S ARMED COHORTS!

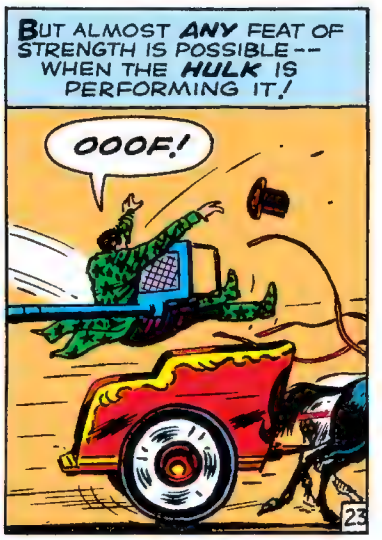
THE HULK IS SPOILING EVERYTHING! THE RING-MASTER WILL ESCAPE IN ALL THIS CONFUSION!
WAIT! DON'T DRAW YOUR GUN! I'LL HANDLE THE HULK! JUST GIMME A CHANCE!

BUT THE GOVERNMENT AGENT'S FEAR IS REALIZED, AS...
NOW'S MY CHANCE TO SLIP AWAY!

BY THE TIME ANYONE KNOWS WHAT HAPPENED, I'LL BE IN ANOTHER TOWN, IN ANOTHER DISGUISE, AND THEY'LL NEVER FIND ME!

BUT THE FLEEING FUGITIVE HAS RECKONED WITHOUT THE HULK, NOW UNDER THE CONTROL OF A VENGEFUL RICK JONES!
I'LL STOP HIM!

HE-HE'S LIFTING THE MAIN SUPPORT POLE RIGHT OUT OF THE GROUND! IT-IT AIN'T POSSIBLE!


BUT ALMOST ANY FEAT OF STRENGTH IS POSSIBLE--WHEN THE HULK IS PERFORMING IT!
OOOF!

HELP! SAVE ME! DON'T LET HIM BEAT ME!
HULK! LET HIM GO! PUT HIM DOWN!

DESPITE HIS WHITE-HOT WRATH, THE HULK HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO OBEY THE TEEN-AGER WHO IS HIS MASTER, AS HEAVILY-ARMED TROOPS FROM THE NEARBY COMMAND POST BURST IN UPON THE SCENE!
ON THE DOUBLE, MEN!
WHERE IS HE?? WHERE'S THE HULK??

STAND ASIDE, BOY! THAT CREATURE MUST BE STOPPED BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
NO! YOU CAN'T! HE AIN'T JUST A CREATURE! HE'S-- HE'S-- I CAN'T TELL YOU WHAT HE IS--BUT NOBODY'S SHOOTIN' HIM!
ARGHHH!

UP, HULK! UP-- RIGHT THRU THE TENT!
LOOK! HE'S FLYING! NOTHING CAN STOP HIM NOW!

YOU DID IT, HULK! WE'RE FREE--YOU'RE SAFE! BUT--FOR HOW LONG??
24

YOU WON'T ESCAPE ME FOREVER--DO YOU HEAR ME, HULK! I'LL TRACK YOU DOWN TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH! I'LL RID THIS WORLD OF YOUR MENACE, NO MATTER WHAT! I SWEAR IT, HULK! I SWEAR IT!

AND SO OUR AMAZING SAGA COMES TO AN END--BUT ONLY FOR NOW! SOON THE HULK WILL STRIKE AGAIN--BUT MORE OF THAT IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK!!! DON'T DARE MISS IT!
the END

CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE

IND.

12¢

THE INCREDIBLE HULK

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MC

4 NOV.

2 FEATURE-LENGTH HULK THRILLERS IN THIS ISSUE!

FANTASY AS YOU LIKE IT!

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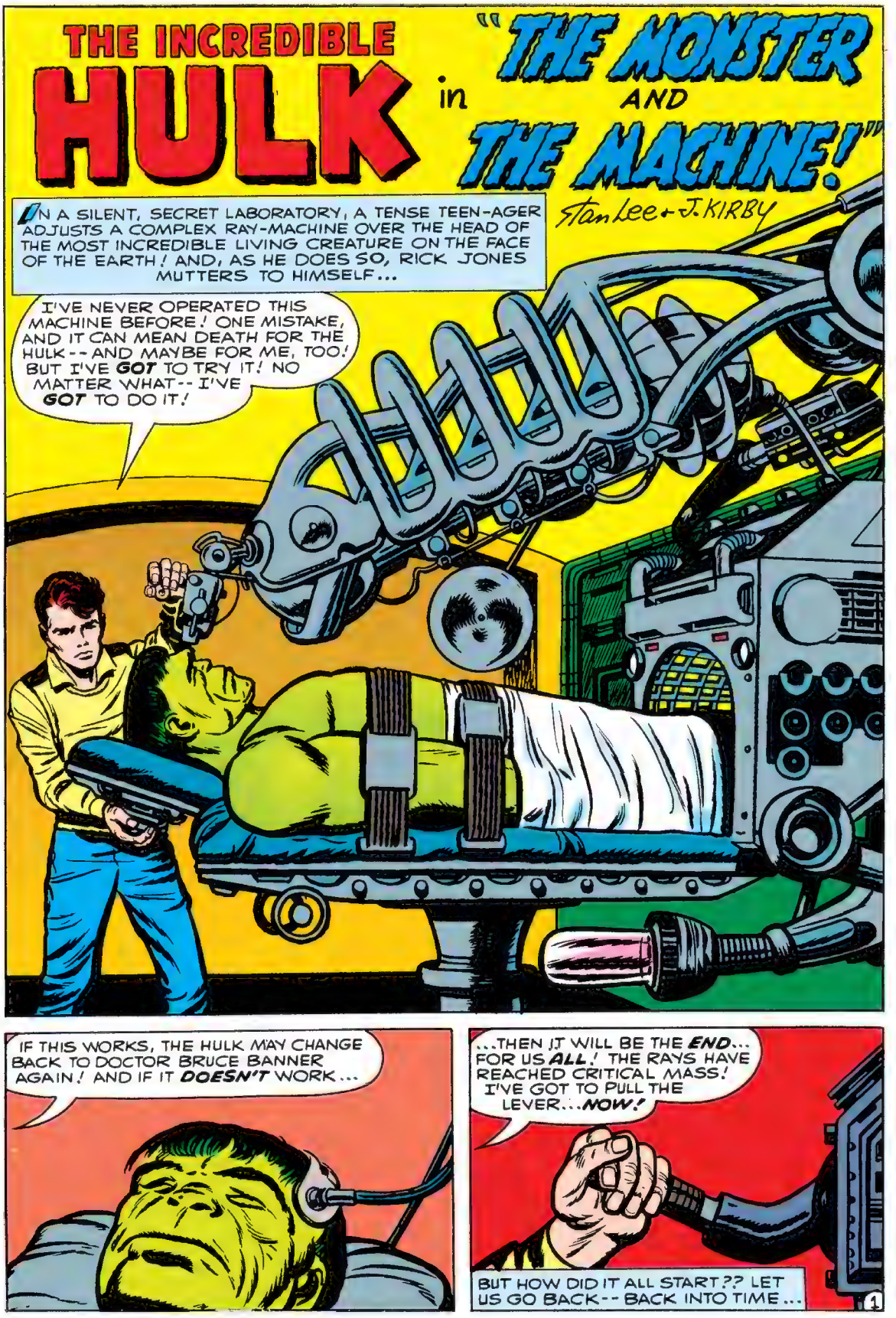
THE INCREDIBLE HULK
in "THE MONSTER AND THE MACHINE!"
Stan Lee & J. KIRBY
IN A SILENT, SECRET LABORATORY, A TENSE TEEN-AGER ADJUSTS A COMPLEX RAY-MACHINE OVER THE HEAD OF THE MOST INCREDIBLE LIVING CREATURE ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH! AND, AS HE DOES SO, RICK JONES MUTTERS TO HIMSELF...
I'VE NEVER OPERATED THIS MACHINE BEFORE! ONE MISTAKE, AND IT CAN MEAN DEATH FOR THE HULK--AND MAYBE FOR ME, TOO! BUT I'VE GOT TO TRY IT! NO MATTER WHAT--I'VE GOT TO DO IT!
IF THIS WORKS, THE HULK MAY CHANGE BACK TO DOCTOR BRUCE BANNER AGAIN! AND IF IT DOESN'T WORK...
...THEN IT WILL BE THE END... FOR US ALL! THE RAYS HAVE REACHED CRITICAL MASS! I'VE GOT TO PULL THE LEVER...NOW!
BUT HOW DID IT ALL START?? LET US GO BACK--BACK INTO TIME...
1

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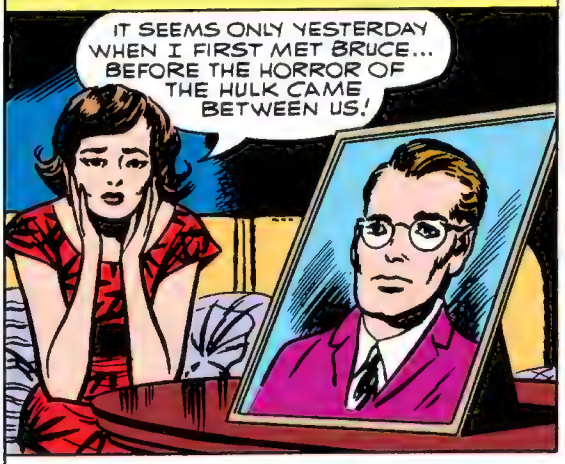
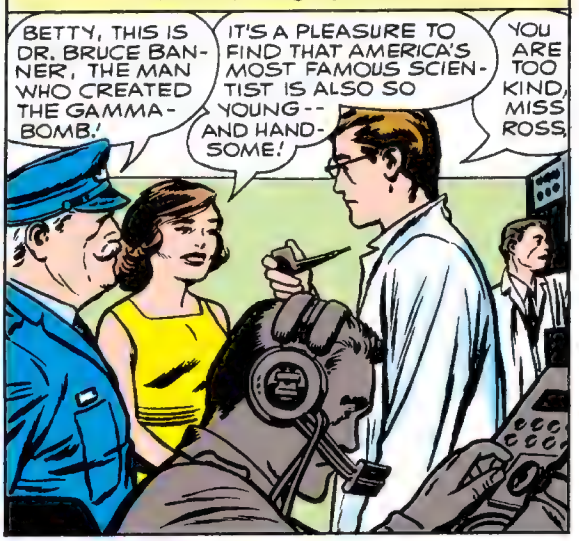
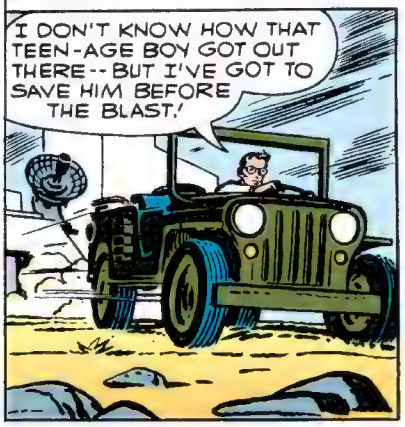
MILES AWAY, DAYS BEFORE RICK JONES' TREMBLING FINGERS PULL THE FATAL LEVER, ANOTHER ACTOR ON DESTINY'S STAGE ALSO IS THINKING OF DOCTOR BRUCE BANNER! FOR HERE WE FIND BETTY ROSS, UNABLE TO GET THE HANDSOME, BROODING SCIENTIST OUT OF HER MIND... OR HER HEART...



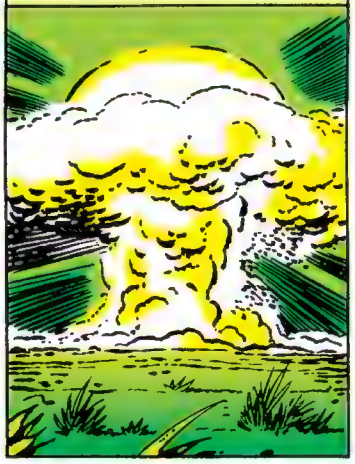
"HOW THRILLED I WAS WHEN MY FATHER INTRODUCED US--ON THAT FATEFUL DAY OF THE GAMMA-BOMB TEST..".


BETTY, THIS IS DR. BRUCE BANNER, THE MAN WHO CREATED THE GAMMA-BOMB!
IT'S A PLEASURE TO FIND THAT AMERICA'S MOST FAMOUS SCIENTIST IS ALSO SO YOUNG-- AND HANDSOME!
YOU ARE TOO KIND, MISS ROSS.

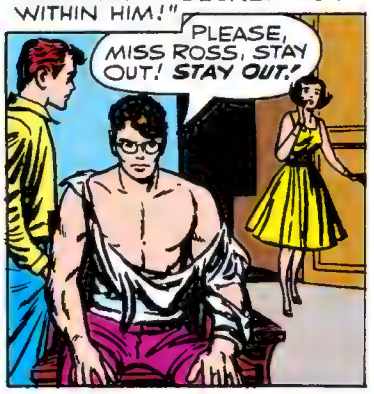
"AND THEN, SECONDS BEFORE THE BOMB WAS DUE TO BE DETONATED, BRUCE LEFT THE SAFETY OF HIS BUNKER TO DRIVE MADLY INTO THE TEST AREA"...



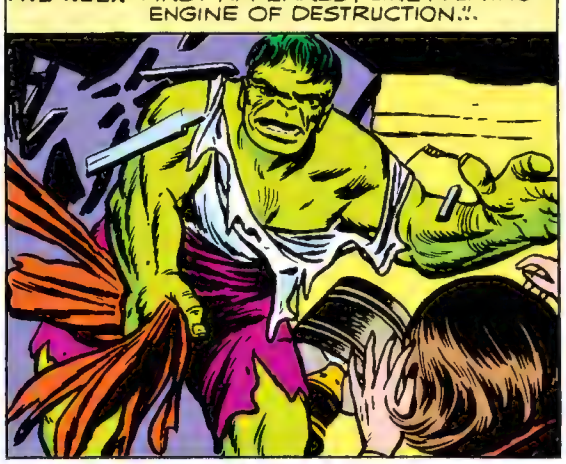
"YES, HE SAVED THE BOY! BUT WHAT A PRICE HE PAID FOR IT!"



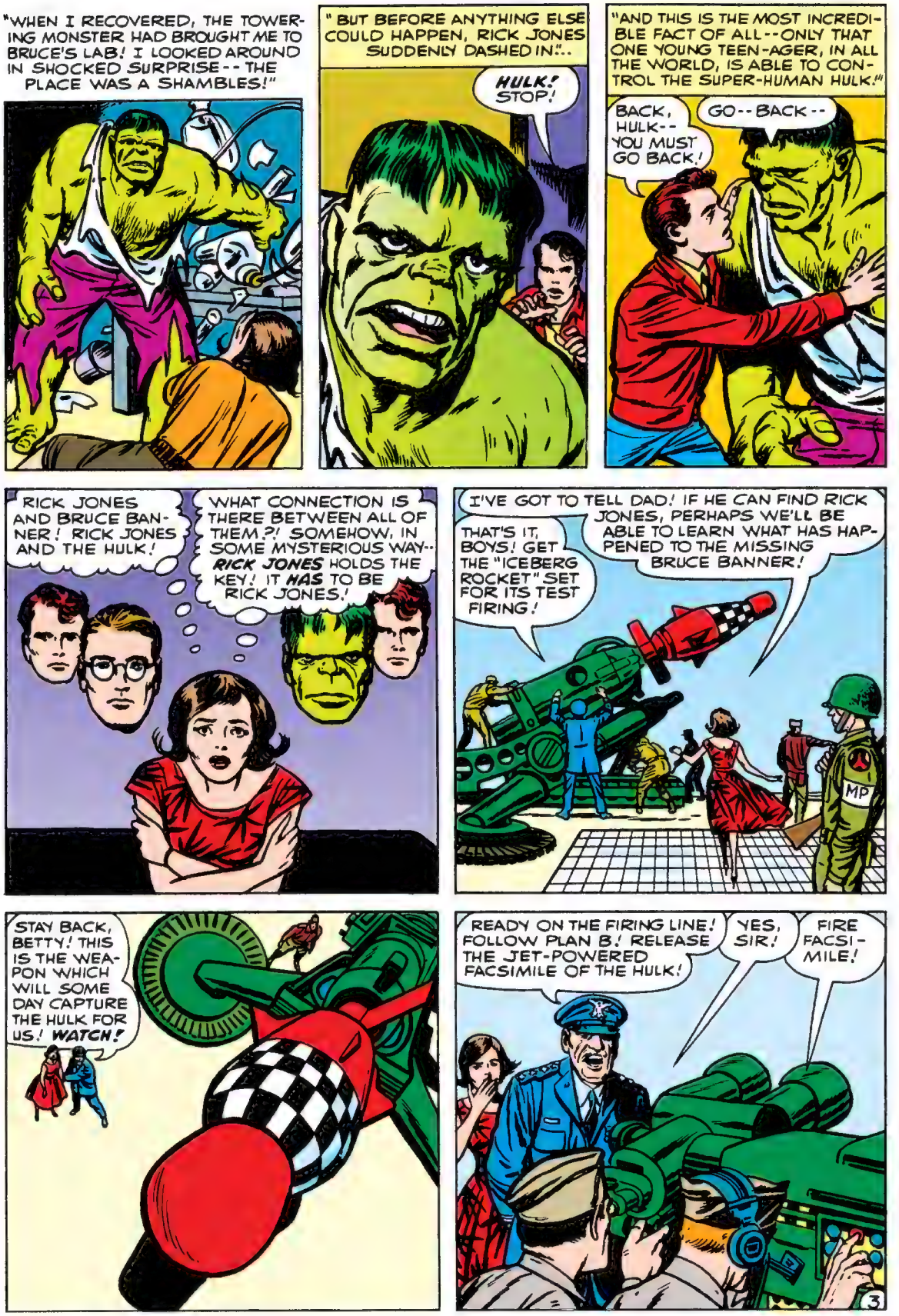
"FOR, WHEN HE RETURNED, AFTER HAVING BEEN EXPOSED TO THE AWESOME GAMMA RAYS, BRUCE BANNER SEEMED SOMEHOW--DIFFERENT! AS THOUGH HE CARRIED A FRIGHTENING SECRET LOCK WITHIN HIM!"



"PERHAPS IT WAS JUST A COINCIDENCE, BUT IT WAS JUST ABOUT THAT SAME TIME THAT ***THE HULK*** FIRST APPEARED, LIKE A LIVING ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION..".



"TO THIS VERY DAY, NO ONE KNOWS WHERE HE CAME FROM, NOR HOW, NOR WHY! BUT FOR SOME UNEXPLAINABLE REASON, HE NEVER TRIED TO HARM ME! IT WAS AS THOUGH HE WAS TRYING TO ***TELL*** ME SOMETHING--BUT THEN I FAINTED--THE TROOPS SAW HIM--AND THE HUNT WAS ON"..

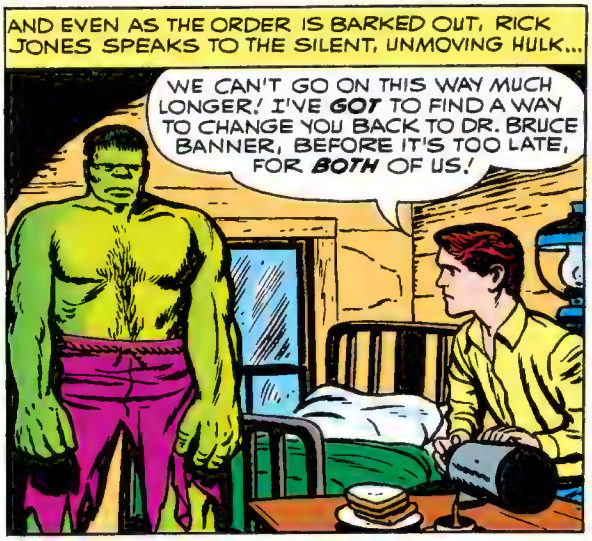

"WHEN I RECOVERED, THE TOWERING MONSTER HAD BROUGHT ME TO BRUCE'S LAB! I LOOKED AROUND IN SHOCKED SURPRISE -- THE PLACE WAS A SHAMBLES!"
" BUT BEFORE ANYTHING ELSE COULD HAPPEN, RICK JONES SUDDENLY DASHED IN"...
HULK! STOP!
"AND THIS IS THE MOST INCREDIBLE FACT OF ALL -- ONLY THAT ONE YOUNG TEEN-AGER, IN ALL THE WORLD, IS ABLE TO CONTROL THE SUPER-HUMAN HULK!"
BACK, HULK -- YOU MUST GO BACK!
GO -- BACK --
RICK JONES AND BRUCE BANNER! RICK JONES AND THE HULK!
WHAT CONNECTION IS THERE BETWEEN ALL OF THEM?! SOMEHOW, IN SOME MYSTERIOUS WAY -- RICK JONES HOLDS THE KEY! IT HAS TO BE RICK JONES!
I'VE GOT TO TELL DAD! IF HE CAN FIND RICK JONES, PERHAPS WE'LL BE ABLE TO LEARN WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE MISSING BRUCE BANNER!
THAT'S IT, BOYS! GET THE "ICEBERG ROCKET" SET FOR ITS TEST FIRING!
MP
STAY BACK, BETTY! THIS IS THE WEAPON WHICH WILL SOME DAY CAPTURE THE HULK FOR US! WATCH!
READY ON THE FIRING LINE! FOLLOW PLAN B! RELEASE THE JET-POWERED FACSIMILE OF THE HULK!
YES, SIR!
FIRE FACSIMILE!
3

IT'S THE HULK!
NO! IT'S JUST AN ARTIFICIAL JET-POWERED COPY! TO USE AS A TEST TARGET! NOW WATCH WHAT HAPPENS...
THERE GOES THE ICEBERG ROCKET AFTER ITS PREY!
WHY DO YOU CALL IT AN ICEBERG ROCKET, DAD?
WHOOOMMMM
YOU'LL SEE IN A SECOND!
THERE! IT RELEASED A SUDDEN BURST OF A SPECIAL CHEMICAL!
A CHEMICAL WHICH INSTANTLY TURNS INTO A SOLID CAKE OF ICE!
THE ICEBERG DID IT! IT BROUGHT DOWN THE FACSIMILE HULK!
AND THAT'S JUST THE WAY WE'LL GET THE REAL HULK IF WE EVER GET OUR SIGHTS ON HIM!
AND NOW, MY DEAR, WHAT WAS IT YOU WANTED TO TELL ME?
OH, DAD--IT'S ABOUT THE HULK--AND RICK JONES!
4

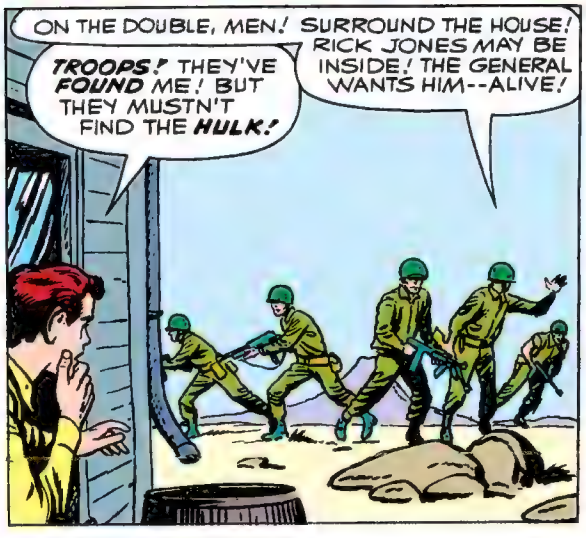
I'M SURE THAT BRUCE BANNER'S DISAPPEARANCE IS TIED IN WITH BOTH OF THEM! BRUCE MIGHT BE INJURED, OR A PRISONER, OR WORSE!
BAH! I'VE GOT MORE TO WORRY ABOUT THAN ONE MISSING SCIENTIST! AND A TROUBLESOME SCIENTIST, AT THAT!

DAD, IF YOU CAN FIND RICK JONES, YOU'LL NOT ONLY FIND DR. BANNER, BUT YOU MIGHT FIND THE HULK, AS WELL! I'M SURE THAT THE BOY KNOWS THE ANSWER TO THE RIDDLE OF THE HULK!
HMMM! MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING IN WHAT YOU SAY! I'LL DO ANYTHING TO DESTROY THAT MONSTER, ONCE AND FOR ALL!

ATTENTION ALL PERSONNEL! GENERAL ROSS SPEAKING! FIND RICK JONES! TOP PRIORITY! OVER AND OUT!

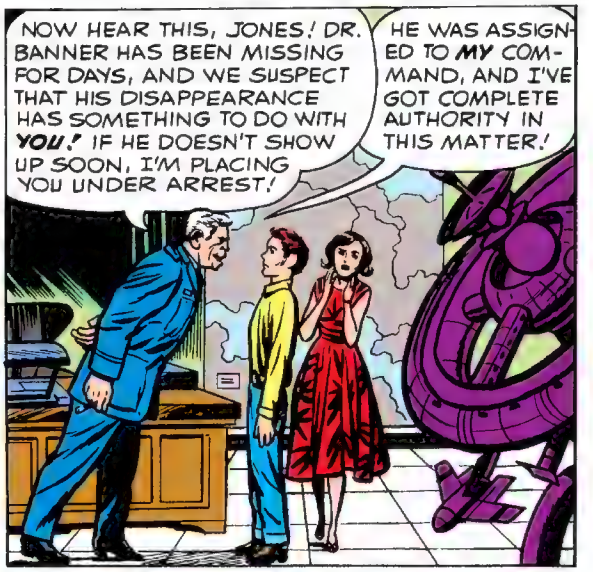

AND EVEN AS THE ORDER IS BARKED OUT, RICK JONES SPEAKS TO THE SILENT, UNMOVING HULK...
WE CAN'T GO ON THIS WAY MUCH LONGER! I'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO CHANGE YOU BACK TO DR. BRUCE BANNER, BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE, FOR BOTH OF US!

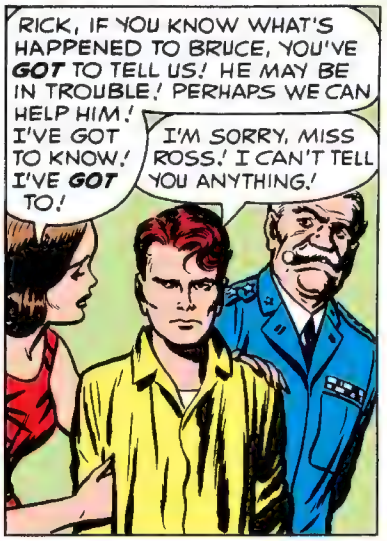
NO WONDER NO ONE HAS SUSPECTED THE TRUTH YET! EVEN THOUGH I KNOW IT, IT'S HARD FOR ME TO BELIEVE YOU YOURSELF ARE DR. BANNER, CHANGED INTO A MONSTER BY A STRANGE MIRACLE, AND SUBJECT ONLY TO MY COMMANDS!


ON THE DOUBLE, MEN! SURROUND THE HOUSE! RICK JONES MAY BE INSIDE! THE GENERAL WANTS HIM--ALIVE!
TROOPS! THEY'VE FOUND ME! BUT THEY MUSTN'T FIND THE HULK!

THEN, AT A SUDDEN COMMAND FROM HIS YOUNG MASTER, THE MIGHTIEST LIVING THING ON EARTH MAKES A FANTASTIC LEAP, POWERED BY MUSCLES SO POWERFUL, THAT HE SEEMS TO BE FLYING!..
GO, HULK-- GO! UP, UP, UP!

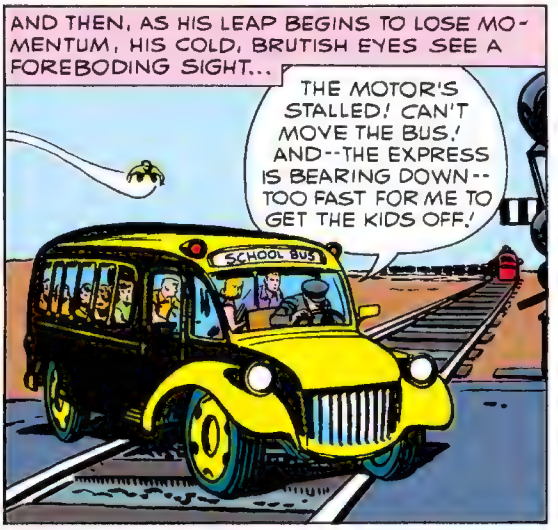
SECONDS LATER...
STRANGE--I COULD HAVE SWORN I SAW SOME SORT OF FIGURE GO FLYING BY! BETTER NOT MENTION IT TO ANYONE, THEY'LL THINK I'VE FLIPPED!
WADDA YOU GUYS *WANT?*
GENERAL THUNDER-BOLT ROSS WILL EXPLAIN! COME WITH US!
MP

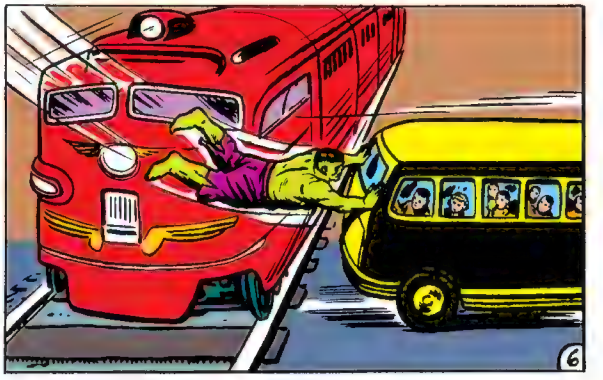

AND THEN, AT THE GENERAL'S HEADQUARTERS..
NOW HEAR THIS, JONES! DR. BANNER HAS BEEN MISSING FOR DAYS, AND WE SUSPECT THAT HIS DISAPPEARANCE HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH *YOU!* IF HE DOESN'T SHOW UP SOON, I'M PLACING YOU UNDER ARREST!
HE WAS ASSIGNED TO *MY* COMMAND, AND I'VE GOT COMPLETE AUTHORITY IN THIS MATTER!


RICK, IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENED TO BRUCE, YOU'VE *GOT* TO TELL US! HE MAY BE IN TROUBLE! PERHAPS WE CAN HELP HIM!
I'VE GOT TO KNOW! I'VE *GOT* TO!
I'M SORRY, MISS ROSS! I CAN'T TELL YOU ANYTHING!

HOW CAN I TELL THEM THAT BRUCE BANNER IS REALLY THE *HULK!?!?* AND YET, IF I *DON'T* PRODUCE DOCTOR BANNER SOON, I'M GONNA BE IN BIG TROUBLE! THEY MAY EVEN ACCUSE ME OF--*MURDERING* HIM!

MEANWHILE, PROPELLED BY HIS PRODIGIOUS LEAP, THE ONE LIVING CREATURE WHO HOLDS THE KEY TO THE MYSTERY OF BRUCE BANNER ZOOMS THRU THE AIR, MINDLESSLY, AIMLESSLY, TOO FAR FROM RICK JONES TO RECEIVE ANY FURTHER MENTAL COMMANDS...


AND THEN, AS HIS LEAP BEGINS TO LOSE MOMENTUM, HIS COLD, BRUTISH EYES SEE A FOREBODING SIGHT...
THE MOTOR'S STALLED! CAN'T MOVE THE BUS! AND--THE EXPRESS IS BEARING DOWN--TOO FAST FOR ME TO GET THE KIDS OFF!
SCHOOL BUS


SOMEWHERE, DEEP WITHIN THE MONSTER'S BRAIN, A TINY SPARK OF BRUCE BANNER COMES TO LIFE! AND THEN, WITHOUT CONSCIOUS THOUGHT, MOVING LIKE A GIGANTIC, LIVING BATTERING RAM, THE *HULK* TAKES OVER, PERFORMING A FEAT WHICH NO OTHER LIVING HUMAN COULD HAVE ACCOMPLISHED!
6

THE AMAZING INCIDENT OCCUPIED THE HEADLINES DURING THE NEXT 24 HOURS, BUT AFTER THAT, IT WAS SOON SWEPT AWAY BY THE RUSH OF OTHER EVENTS...
ENDSFORD GAZETTE
UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT AVERTS SCHOOL BUS TRAGEDY! DETAILS ON PG. 3
WAS IT SOMETHING HUMAN? CHILDREN'S DESCRIPTION PRONOUNCED AS HYSTERIA BY AUTHORITIES!
EXTRA
BUS DRIVER ADMITS THAT
LATER, ON A MOVIE SET, NOT FAR AWAY...
NO! NO! NO! YOU'RE NOT HAMMING IT UP ENOUGH! THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE A MONSTER MOVIE! YOU'VE GOT TO LOOK SCARED!
DIRECTOR
NOW LET'S TRY IT AGAIN!
OKAY, MIKE! ROLL 'EM! NOW LET'S HEAR YOU REALLY SCREAM, KID!
EEEK!
THAT'S IT, BABY! YOU'RE DOIN' FINE! KEEP IT UP! I NEVER KNEW YOU COULD ACT SO GOOD!
HELP! HELP!
HOLY HANNAH! SHE WASN'T ACTING! LEMME OUT OF HERE! RUN FOR THE HILLS, BOYS!
MINUTES LATER, AT THE STUDIO COMMISSARY, A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY...
STOP SHOVIN' BACK THERE! I WAS FIRST IN LINE!
C'MON, KEEP THE LINE MOVIN'! WHO'S NEXT?
FOOD!
URK!
I'M THRU WITH SHOW BUSINESS! IT'S BACK TO THE HASH HOUSE FOR ME!
7

BUT THEN, AFTER THE PANIC SUBSIDES...

SURROUND HIM! DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY! WE CAN MAKE THE GREATEST MONSTER MOVIE OF ALL TIME WITH THAT THING!

S-SOMETHIN' TELLS ME HE AIN'T GONNA COTTON UP TO THE IDEA!

SUDDENLY, UNEXPECTEDLY, THE MIGHTY HULK BRINGS HIS ENORMOUS HANDS TOGETHER IN A MIND-STAGGERING THUNDERCLAP!

WHOOMPH!

LOUDER THAN A JET PLANE'S SONIC BOOM, THE AWESOME EXPLOSION STUNS THE STARTLED MEN INTO HELPLESSNESS AS THE MOST POWERFUL PAIR OF LEGS ON EARTH AGAIN CATAPULT THE HULK INTO THE SKY...

ON AND ON HIS PRODIGIOUS LEAP CARRIES HIM, INTO THE VERY HEART OF THE METROPOLIS, WHEN A FAINT, FAR-AWAY THOUGHT REACHES HIS CLOUDED BRAIN...

HULK! HULK! I NEED YOU! THIS IS RICK! COME TO ME, HULK! FOLLOW THE TRAIL OF MY THOUGHT!

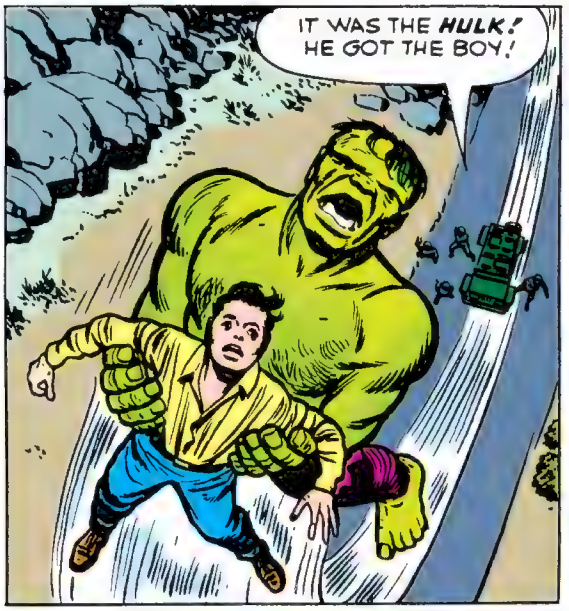
AND, NOT LONG AFTERWARDS, AS RICK IS BEING TAKEN TO AN ARMY PRISON, UNDER GUARD...

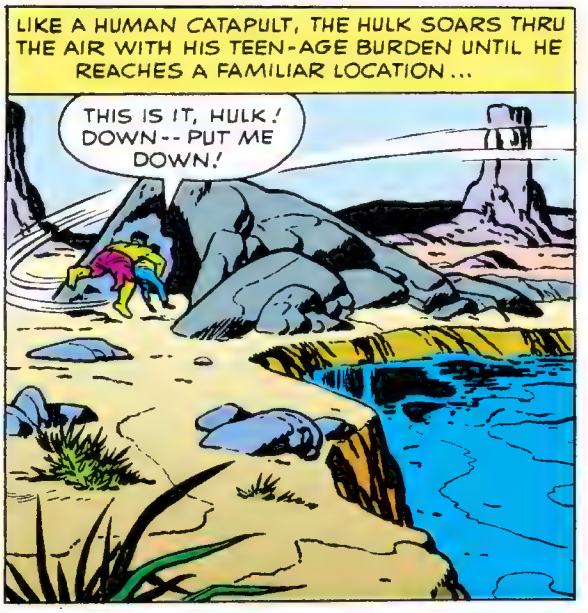
HE OUGHT TA *BE* HERE BY NOW!

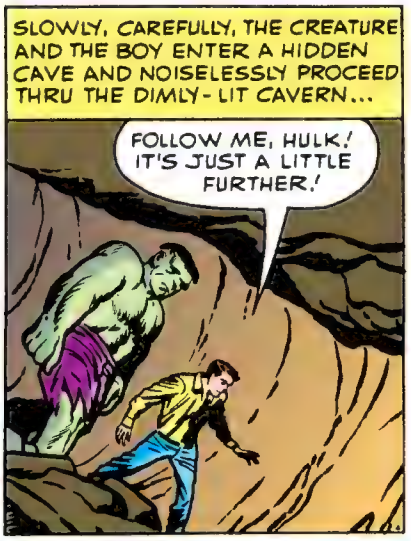
HEY, CHARLIE, WHAT'S THAT IN THE REAR VIEW MIRROR?

WHERE? I DON'T SEE ANY... *WAIT! NOW* I SEE IT!

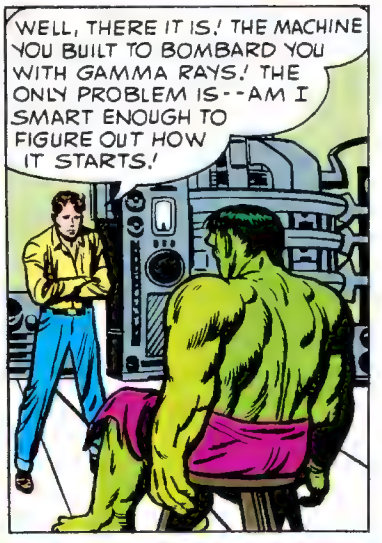
NO! *NO!* IT *CAN'T* BE!


IT WAS THE HULK! HE GOT THE BOY!


LIKE A HUMAN CATAPULT, THE HULK SOARS THRU THE AIR WITH HIS TEEN-AGE BURDEN UNTIL HE REACHES A FAMILIAR LOCATION ...
THIS IS IT, HULK! DOWN -- PUT ME DOWN!


SLOWLY, CAREFULLY, THE CREATURE AND THE BOY ENTER A HIDDEN CAVE AND NOISELESSLY PROCEED THRU THE DIMLY-LIT CAVERN...
FOLLOW ME, HULK! IT'S JUST A LITTLE FURTHER!

LUCKY FOR US YOU BUILT THIS HIDDEN LAB WHILE YOU WERE STILL BRUCE BANNER! IT'S MY ONLY CHANCE TO CLEAR MYSELF NOW -- AND TO BRING YOU BACK TO NORMAL, TOO!

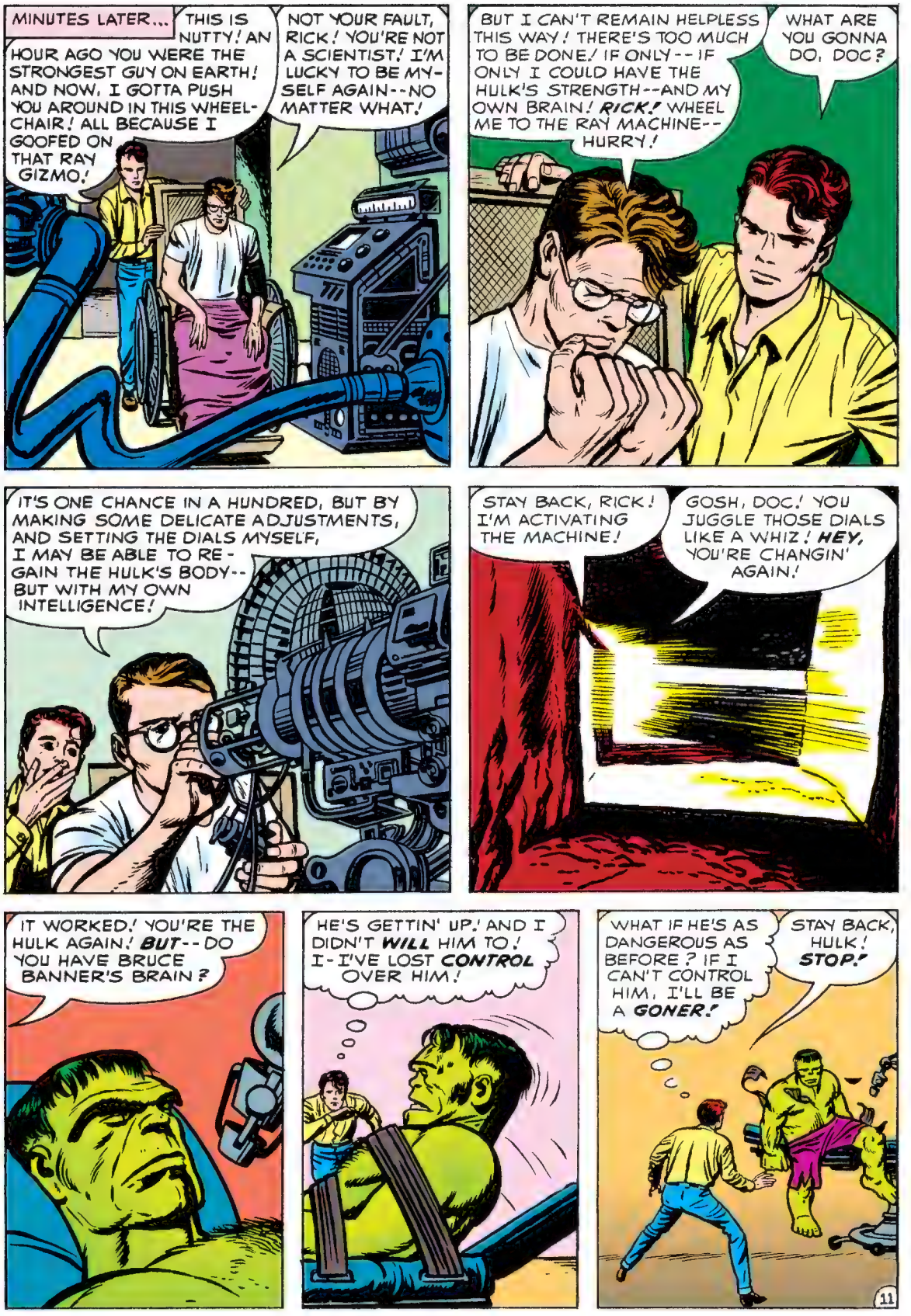

WELL, THERE IT IS! THE MACHINE YOU BUILT TO BOMBARD YOU WITH GAMMA RAYS! THE ONLY PROBLEM IS -- AM I SMART ENOUGH TO FIGURE OUT HOW IT STARTS!

I CAN'T EVEN UNDERSTAND HALF OF THE JAZZ YOU WROTE IN THIS INSTRUCTION MANUAL! IF ONLY YOU COULD HELP ME! IF I MAKE A MISTAKE, ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN!

HULK, TRY TO THINK! SOMEWHERE IN THAT HEAD OF YOURS A SPARK OF BRUCE BANNER MUST STILL BE LISTENING! TELL ME, HULK -- SHOULD I TAKE THE CHANCE? SHOULD I TRY? YOU'VE GOT TO TELL ME!

...TRY... RICK!

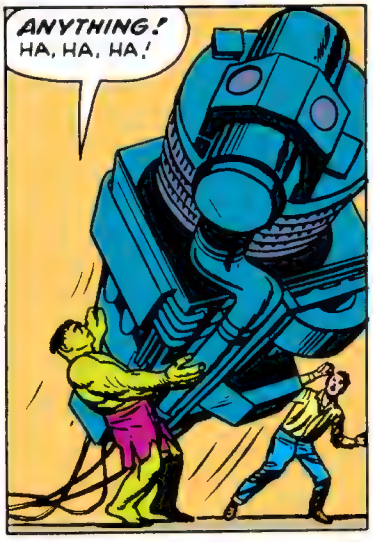
AND SO WE RETURN TO THE PRESENT, AND THE MOST DANGEROUS EXPERIMENT EVER ATTEMPTED BY A SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD BOY!
IF I GIVE HIM TOO MUCH JUICE, WE'LL BOTH BE BLITZED! AND IF I DON'T GIVE HIM ENOUGH, ANYTHING MIGHT HAPPEN! BUT I'VE GOT TO DO IT!
THE RAYS HAVE REACHED CRITICAL MASS! I'VE GOT TO PULL THE LEVER NOW!
THIS IS IT!
IT'S WORKING!
HE'S BRUCE BANNER AGAIN! GOT TO STOP THE RAYS NOW!
BUT RICK JONES' UNSKILLED HANDS FUMBLE FOR AN INSTANT OVER THE DELICATE CONTROLS, AND BY THE TIME THE GAMMA RAYS ARE FINALLY EXTINGUISHED...
I WAS TOO SLOW! HE GOT TOO BIG A DOSE OF THE RAYS! DOC! DOC--SAY SOMETHING!
SUFFERIN' SNAKES! WHAT DO I DO NOW??
HE'S STILL BREATHIN'! HE'S MOVIN'! HERE, DOC, TAKE A SWIG OF THIS TONIC!
WEAK--HARD TO MOVE--WHAT HAPPENED--?
10


MINUTES LATER...
THIS IS NUTTY! AN HOUR AGO YOU WERE THE STRONGEST GUY ON EARTH! AND NOW, I GOTTA PUSH YOU AROUND IN THIS WHEEL-CHAIR! ALL BECAUSE I GOOFED ON THAT RAY GIZMO!
NOT YOUR FAULT, RICK! YOU'RE NOT A SCIENTIST! I'M LUCKY TO BE MYSELF AGAIN--NO MATTER WHAT!
BUT I CAN'T REMAIN HELPLESS THIS WAY! THERE'S TOO MUCH TO BE DONE! IF ONLY--IF ONLY I COULD HAVE THE HULK'S STRENGTH--AND MY OWN BRAIN! RICK! WHEEL ME TO THE RAY MACHINE--HURRY!
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO, DOC?
IT'S ONE CHANCE IN A HUNDRED, BUT BY MAKING SOME DELICATE ADJUSTMENTS, AND SETTING THE DIALS MYSELF, I MAY BE ABLE TO REGAIN THE HULK'S BODY--BUT WITH MY OWN INTELLIGENCE!
STAY BACK, RICK! I'M ACTIVATING THE MACHINE!
GOSH, DOC! YOU JUGGLE THOSE DIALS LIKE A WHIZ! HEY, YOU'RE CHANGIN' AGAIN!
IT WORKED! YOU'RE THE HULK AGAIN! BUT--DO YOU HAVE BRUCE BANNER'S BRAIN?
HE'S GETTIN' UP! AND I DIDN'T WILL HIM TO! I-I'VE LOST CONTROL OVER HIM!
WHAT IF HE'S AS DANGEROUS AS BEFORE? IF I CAN'T CONTROL HIM, I'LL BE A GONER!
STAY BACK, HULK! STOP!
11

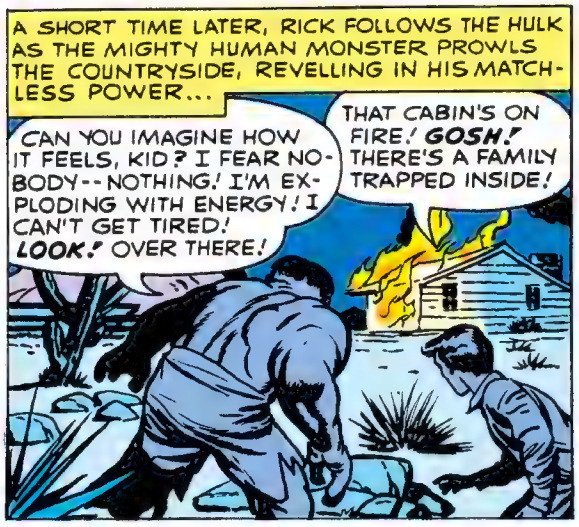
IT'S NO USE! HE'S OUT OF MY CONTROL! I'M COOKED!
RICK!

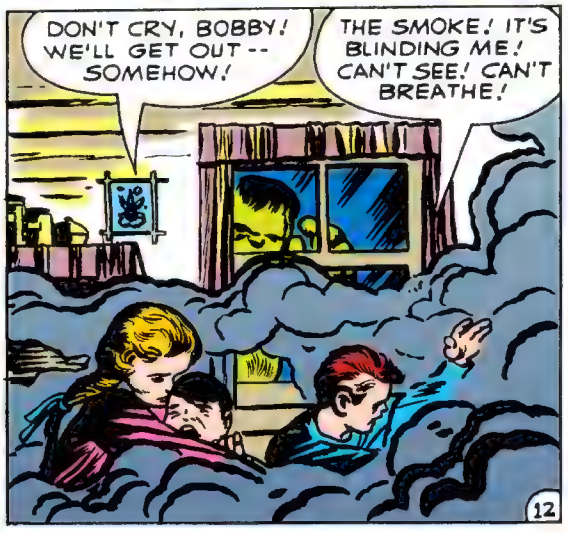
RICK, YOU WONDERFUL, LOYAL, EMPTY-HEADED KID! I DID IT! THE RAY WORKS! I HAVE THE HULK'S BODY -- THE HULK'S STRENGTH -- BUT I CAN STILL THINK LIKE BRUCE BANNER!
MAN! THAT'S THE COOLEST!

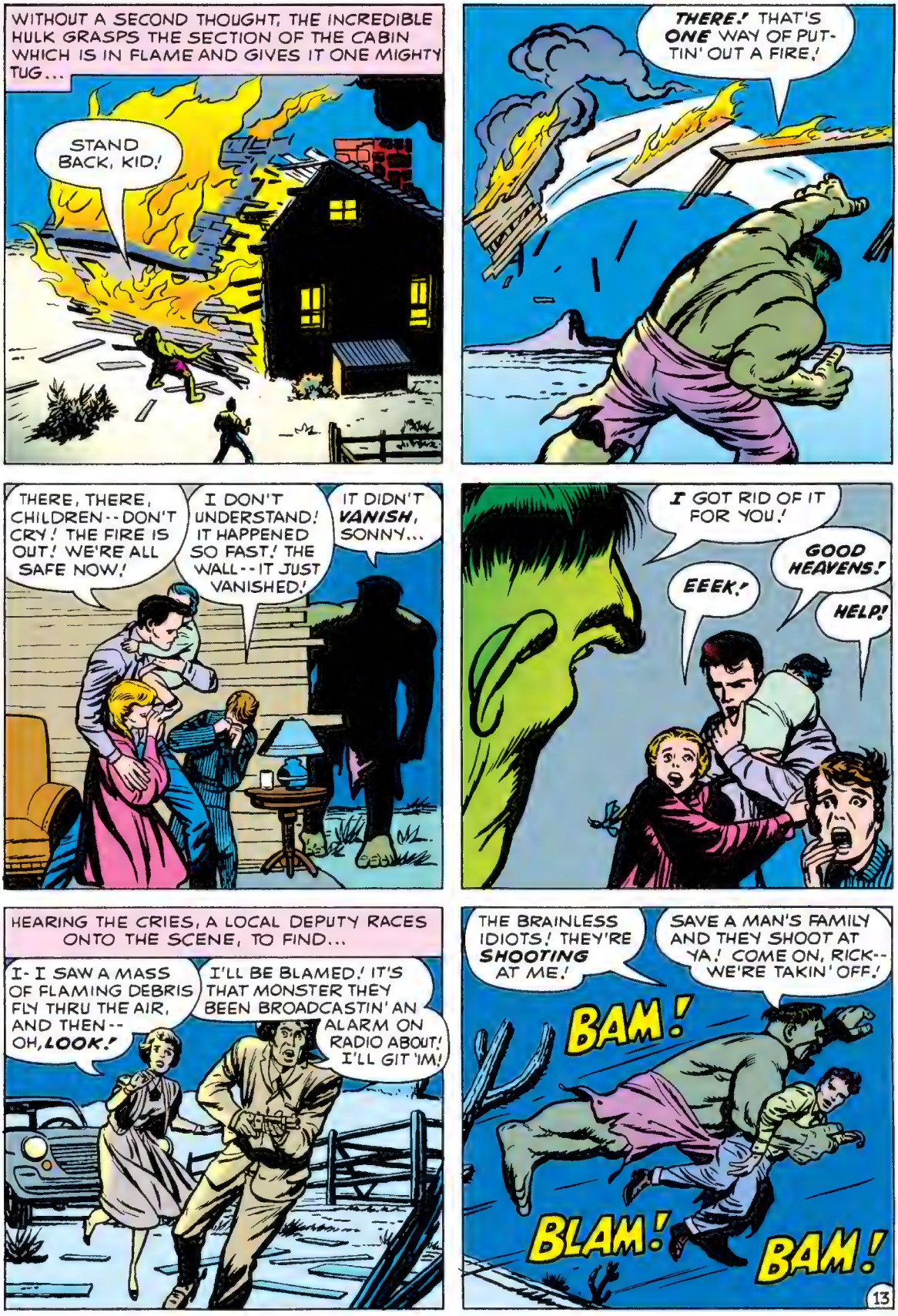
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS, RICK?? DO YOU REALIZE WHAT I CAN ACCOMPLISH?? WITH MY BRAIN, AND THE HULK'S STRENGTH, I CAN DO ANYTHING!


ANYTHING! HA, HA, HA!

I'VE ARRANGED THE CONTROLS SO THAT I CAN WORK THEM MYSELF! I CAN CHANGE BACK TO BRUCE BANNER ANY TIME I WANT TO!
I'M WORRIED! HE SEEMS TO HAVE DR. BANNER'S BRAIN, BUT HE SOUNDS FIERCER -- CRUELER! HE STILL SEEMS -- DANGEROUS!


A SHORT TIME LATER, RICK FOLLOWS THE HULK AS THE MIGHTY HUMAN MONSTER PROWLS THE COUNTRYSIDE, REVELLING IN HIS MATCHLESS POWER...
CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW IT FEELS, KID? I FEAR NOBODY -- NOTHING! I'M EXPLODING WITH ENERGY! I CAN'T GET TIRED! LOOK! OVER THERE!
THAT CABIN'S ON FIRE! GOSH! THERE'S A FAMILY TRAPPED INSIDE!

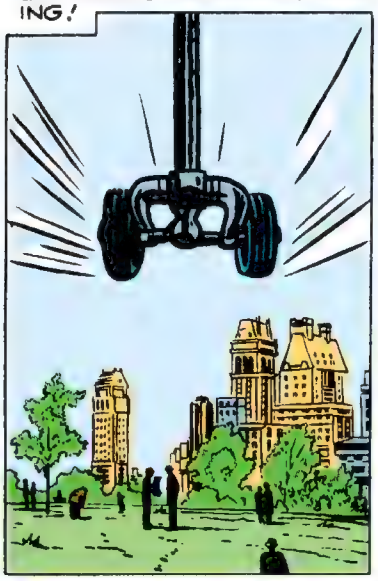

DON'T CRY, BOBBY! WE'LL GET OUT -- SOMEHOW!
THE SMOKE! IT'S BLINDING ME! CAN'T SEE! CAN'T BREATHE!

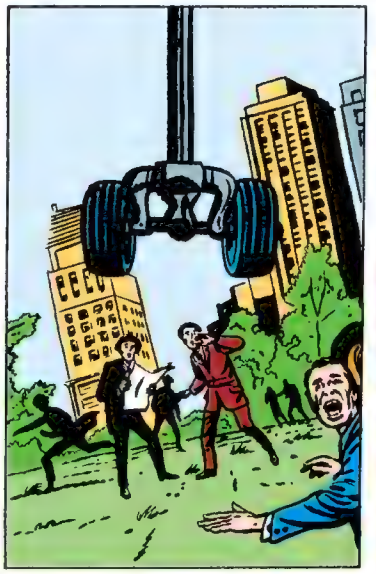

WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT, THE INCREDIBLE HULK GRASPS THE SECTION OF THE CABIN WHICH IS IN FLAME AND GIVES IT ONE MIGHTY TUG...
STAND BACK, KID!
THERE! THAT'S ONE WAY OF PUTTIN' OUT A FIRE!
THERE, THERE, CHILDREN--DON'T CRY! THE FIRE IS OUT! WE'RE ALL SAFE NOW!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND! IT HAPPENED SO FAST! THE WALL--IT JUST VANISHED!
IT DIDN'T VANISH, SONNY...
I GOT RID OF IT FOR YOU!
GOOD HEAVENS!
EEEK!
HELP!
HEARING THE CRIES, A LOCAL DEPUTY RACES ONTO THE SCENE, TO FIND...
I- I SAW A MASS OF FLAMING DEBRIS FLY THRU THE AIR, AND THEN-- OH, LOOK!
I'LL BE BLAMED! IT'S THAT MONSTER THEY BEEN BROADCASTIN' AN ALARM ON RADIO ABOUT! I'LL GIT 'IM!
THE BRAINLESS IDIOTS! THEY'RE SHOOTING AT ME!
SAVE A MAN'S FAMILY AND THEY SHOOT AT YA! COME ON, RICK-- WE'RE TAKIN' OFF!
BAM!
BLAM!
BAM!
13

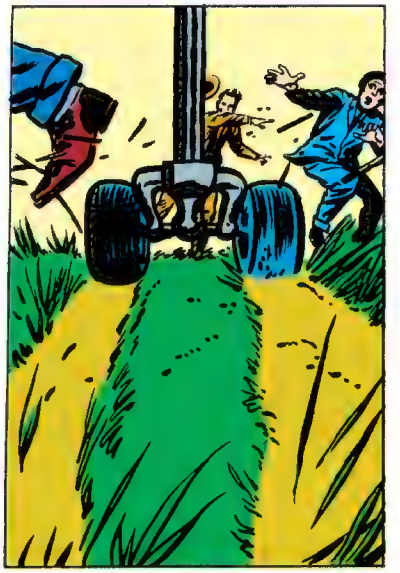
THAT'S RIGHT! SEND OUT AN ALL-POINTS ALARM! THE HULK IS IN THE AREA SOMEPLACE! NO ONE WILL BE SAFE UNTIL HE'S FOUND AND DESTROYED! HE-HE'S EVEN MORE TERRIFYING THAN I HEARD HE WAS!
WE BETTER HEAD BACK TO THE HIDDEN LAB, HULK!
WHERE DO YA THINK I'M GOIN'? I'M SICK OF BEIN' SHOT AT AND HOUNDED!
HERE, I RIGGED UP THIS GADGET SO ALL I GOTTA DO IS STEP ON THESE BUTTONS TO ACTIVATE THE GAMMA RAY!
THEY CAN LOOK FOR THE HULK FROM NOW TILL DOOMSDAY, BUT THEY'LL NEVER FIND ME!
AND ONCE AGAIN THE AWESOME RAYS WEAVE THEIR MAGIC ON THE BEING WHO STANDS BEFORE THEM...
BOY, DOC, IT'S A RELIEF TO HAVE YOU BACK AGAIN--AS YOU! THAT HULK WAS BEGINNIN' TO EVEN SCARE ME!
CAN'T TALK, RICK--TIRED--VERY TIRED...
HAVE TO REST--THE GAMMA RAYS--CAN'T KEEP CHANGING TOO OFTEN--NOT TOO QUICKLY--
SURE, DOC... GO AHEAD! GRAB YOURSELF SOME SHUT-EYE!
RAYS ARE TOO STRONG! MUST REST NOW--TIRED--TIRED--
EVEN THOUGH THE HULK NOW HAS MY BRAIN, HE IS STILL A RAGING GOLIATH! STILL HARD TO CONTROL! I PRAY HE NEVER TURNS ON ME--OR ON MANKIND--BUT MUSTN'T TELL RICK--MUSTN'T WORRY THE BOY--SO MUCH TO THINK ABOUT--SO MUCH TO DO...
GO ON AND SLEEP, DOC--YOU'VE EARNED IT! I KNOW YOU'RE WORRIED! I KNOW THE HULK IS STILL A PROBLEM! BUT I'LL SEE IT THRU WITH YA TILL THE END! I SWEAR IT, DOC--NO MATTER WHAT!
CLICK
THE END
14

"THE GLADIATOR FROM OUTER SPACE!"
Stan Lee + J. KIRBY
STARRING:
THE HULK
BRUCE BANNER
RICK JONES
1

IT LANDED SUDDENLY, UNEXPECTEDLY, SWOOPING DOWN FROM THE SKIES WITHOUT WARNING!







AND THEN IT CAME TO REST! SLOWLY, THE STARTLED ONLOOKERS INCHED CLOSER AND CLOSER...

WHAT *IS* IT? WHERE DID IT COME FROM?

UNTIL, WITHOUT WARNING...

LOOK! IT - IT'S *OPENING UP!*

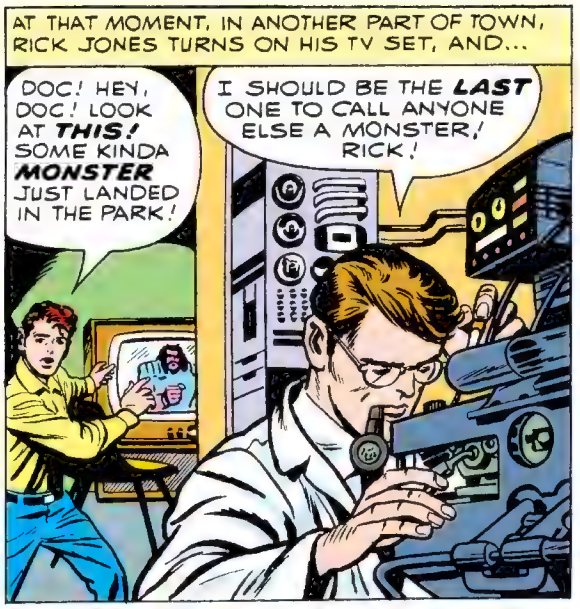
STAY BACK! NO TELLING *WHAT'S* INSIDE THAT THING!

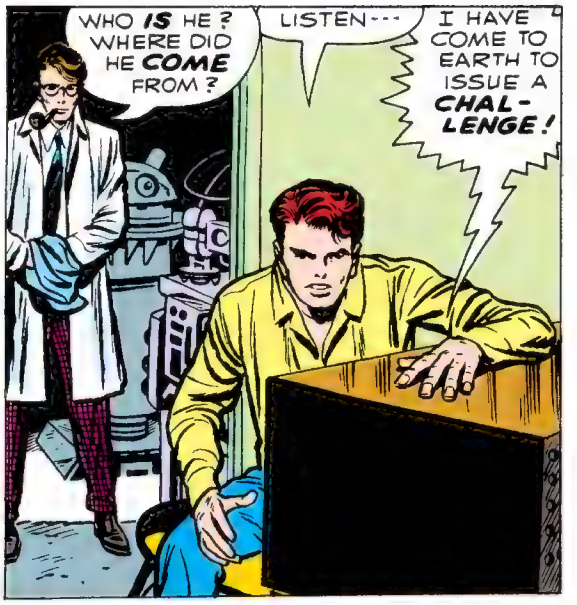
IT MUST BE A CREATURE FROM ANOTHER WORLD!

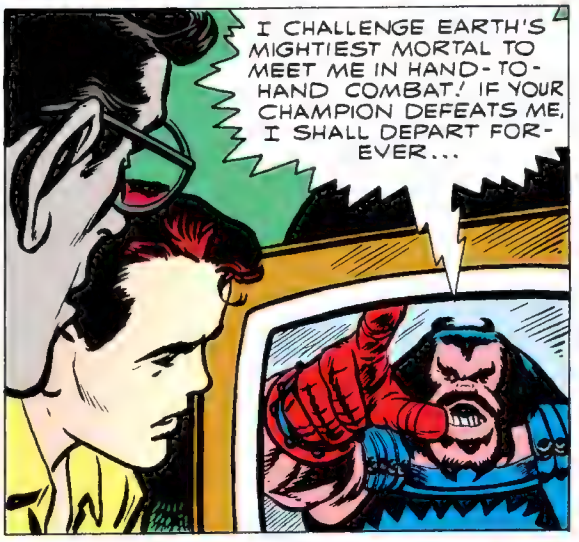
I-

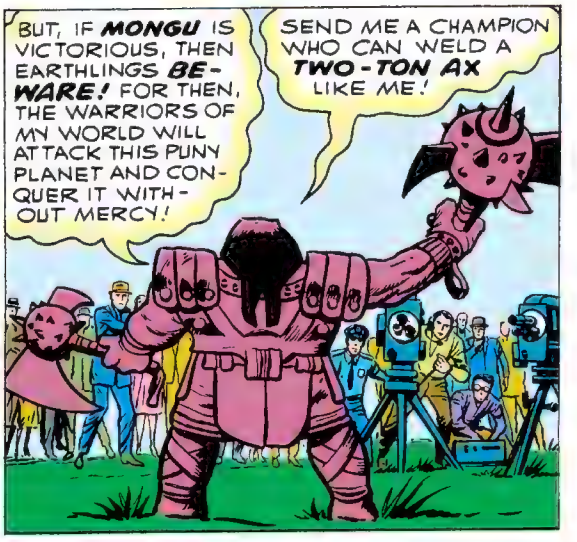
AM-

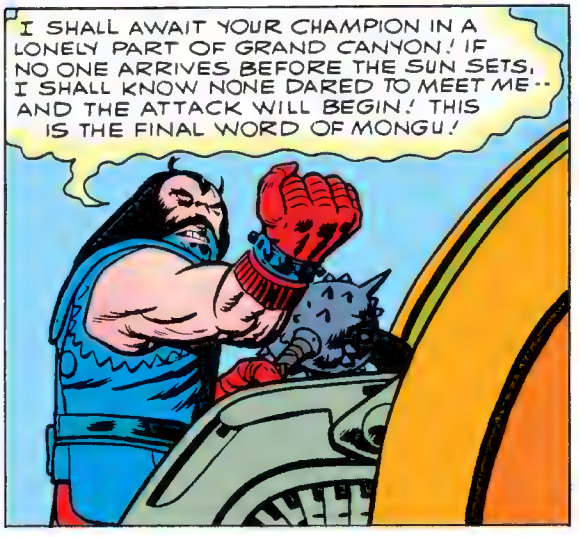
MONGU!

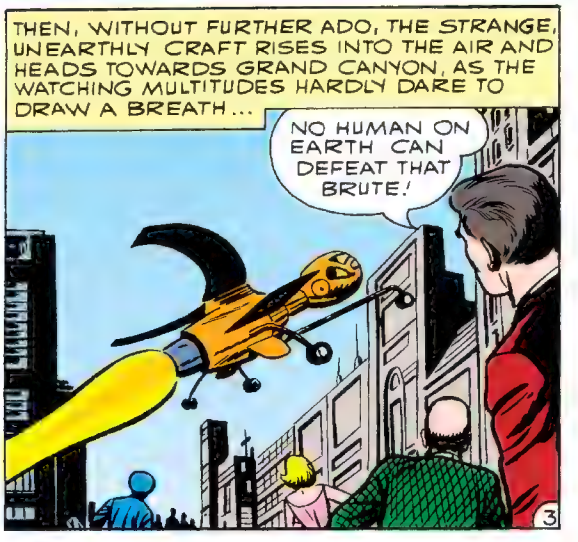

AT THAT MOMENT, IN ANOTHER PART OF TOWN, RICK JONES TURNS ON HIS TV SET, AND...
DOC! HEY, DOC! LOOK AT THIS! SOME KINDA MONSTER JUST LANDED IN THE PARK!
I SHOULD BE THE LAST ONE TO CALL ANYONE ELSE A MONSTER, RICK!


WHO IS HE? WHERE DID HE COME FROM?
LISTEN---
I HAVE COME TO EARTH TO ISSUE A CHAL-LENGE!

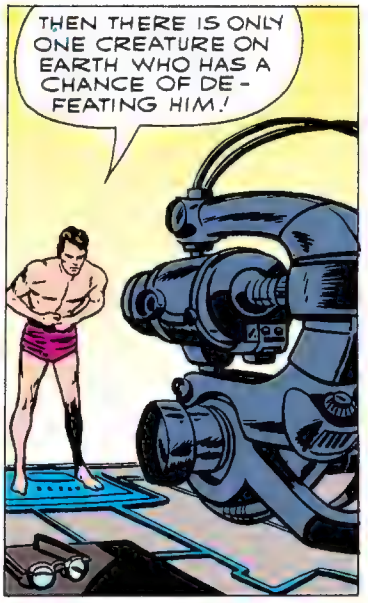

I CHALLENGE EARTH'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL TO MEET ME IN HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT! IF YOUR CHAMPION DEFEATS ME, I SHALL DEPART FOR-EVER...

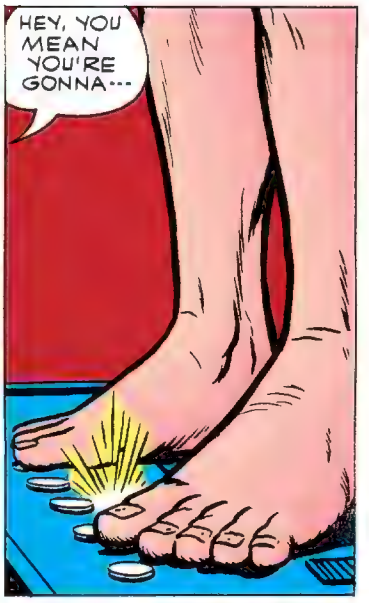

BUT, IF MONGU IS VICTORIOUS, THEN EARTHLINGS BE-WARE! FOR THEN, THE WARRIORS OF MY WORLD WILL ATTACK THIS PUNY PLANET AND CON-QUER IT WITH-OUT MERCY!
SEND ME A CHAMPION WHO CAN WELD A TWO-TON AX LIKE ME!


I SHALL AWAIT YOUR CHAMPION IN A LONELY PART OF GRAND CANYON! IF NO ONE ARRIVES BEFORE THE SUN SETS, I SHALL KNOW NONE DARED TO MEET ME-- AND THE ATTACK WILL BEGIN! THIS IS THE FINAL WORD OF MONGU!


THEN, WITHOUT FURTHER ADO, THE STRANGE, UNEARTHLY CRAFT RISES INTO THE AIR AND HEADS TOWARDS GRAND CANYON, AS THE WATCHING MULTITUDES HARDLY DARE TO DRAW A BREATH...
NO HUMAN ON EARTH CAN DEFEAT THAT BRUTE!

WOW, WAS THAT CAT FOR REAL ?? WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT, DOC ?
I DON'T KNOW, RICK, BUT ONE THING IS SURE-- IF HE IS FOR REAL ...


THEN THERE IS ONLY ONE CREATURE ON EARTH WHO HAS A CHANCE OF DE-FEATING HIM!

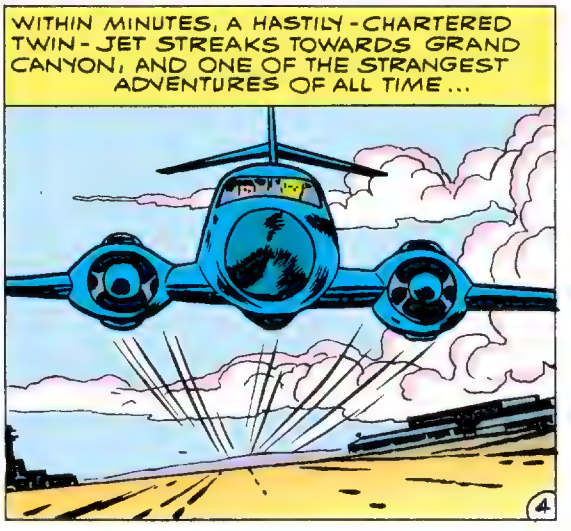

HEY, YOU MEAN YOU'RE GONNA---

STAY BACK, RICK! BACK! LOOK OUT FOR THE RAYS! OHHH...

IT'S WORKING! I-I'M CHANGING!

AND NOW, MONGU HAS A DATE WITH-- THE HULK!

DON'T JUST STAND THERE, KID!
GET MOVING! I MAY NEED YOU!
S-SURE HULK! SURE!

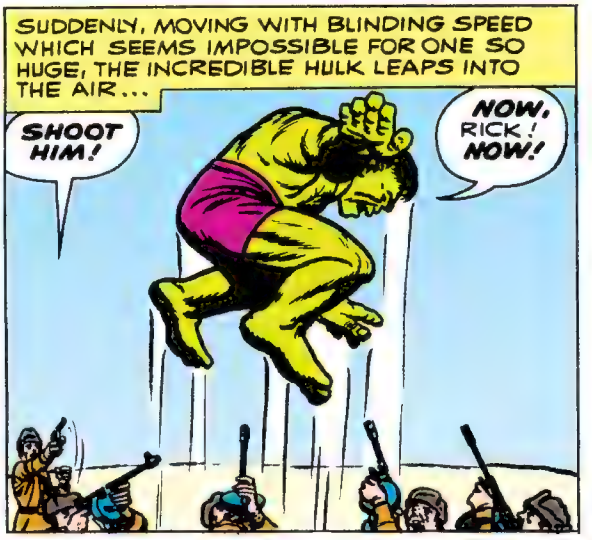

WITHIN MINUTES, A HASTILY-CHARTERED TWIN-JET STREAKS TOWARDS GRAND CANYON, AND ONE OF THE STRANGEST ADVENTURES OF ALL TIME ...
4

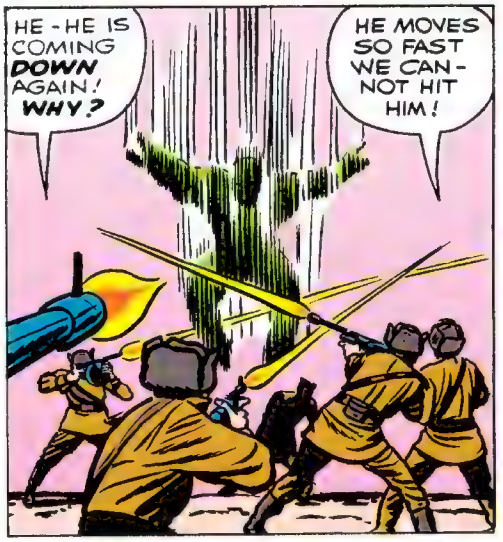
AFTER LONG, ANXIOUS MINUTES...
LOOK! THERE HE IS!
HAH! SO! ONE HAS BEEN FOOLHARDY ENOUGH TO ACCEPT MONGU'S CHALLENGE!
JUST WAIT'LL HE GETS A BETTER LOOK AT YOU, HULK!
IT IS YOU! IT IS THE ONE I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!
YOU EXPECTED ME?
SOMETHING SMELLS FISHY ABOUT ALL THIS! GIMME THAT CLUB!
JUST LIKE I FIGURED! NOTHING BUT CARDBOARD AND CORK! THE WHOLE THING IS A PHONY!
MONGU IS INDEED A PHONY! BUT THERE IS NOTHING PHONY ABOUT YOUR PLIGHT!
YOU HAVE FALLEN INTO MY TRAP! YOU SEE-- I AM NOT ALONE! TAKE HIM, MEN!

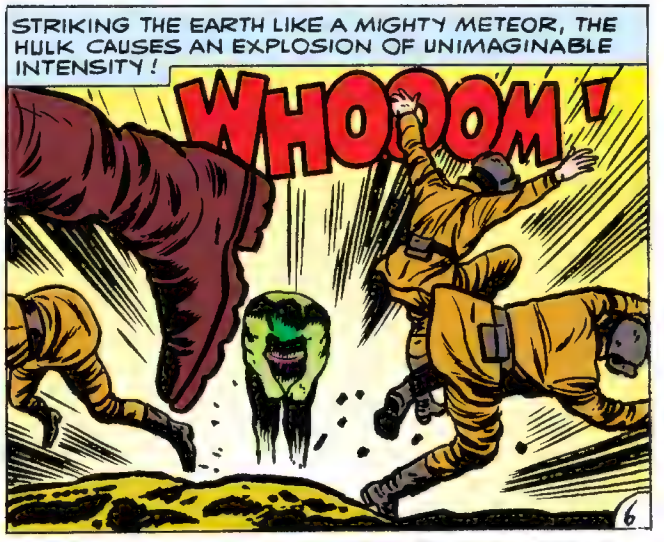
AN ALIEN FROM OUTER SPACE! HAH! HOW EASY IT WAS TO DECEIVE YOU!
MY TRUE NAME IS BORIS MONGUSKI, AND MY REAL MISSION IS TO CAPTURE YOU-- AS I HAVE DONE!

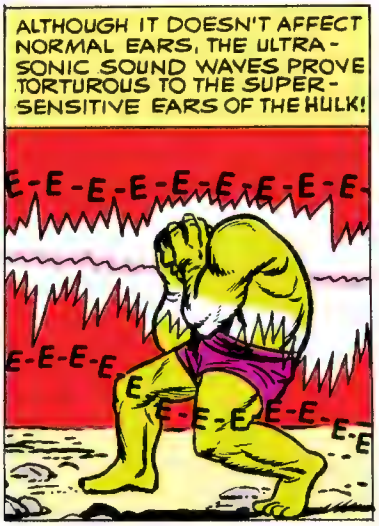
I SHALL BRING YOU BACK BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN WITH ME! THERE, OUR GREAT SCIENTISTS WILL LEARN THE SECRET OF YOUR GREAT STRENGTH AND BUILD FOR US A WHOLE ARMY OF WARRIORS SUCH AS YOU!
WHAT'LL WE DO? YOU CAN'T LICK A WHOLE PLATOON OF THESE CATS! LOOK AT ALL THE HARDWARE THEY'RE CARRYIN', HULK!

SHUT YOUR YAP AND LISTEN TO ME! I'M GONNA PULVERIZE THESE CRUMBS! WHEN I GIVE THE WORD, LIE FLAT AND COVER YOUR EARS! NOW GET OUTA MY WAY!
ALL RIGHT, COMRADES! IF YA WANT ME, COME AND GET ME!


SUDDENLY, MOVING WITH BLINDING SPEED WHICH SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ONE SO HUGE, THE INCREDIBLE HULK LEAPS INTO THE AIR...
SHOOT HIM!
NOW, RICK! NOW!

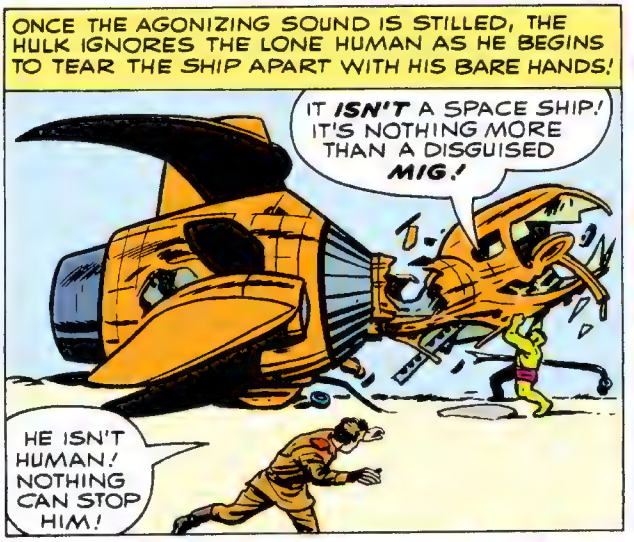

HE-HE IS COMING DOWN AGAIN! WHY?
HE MOVES SO FAST WE CANNOT HIT HIM!

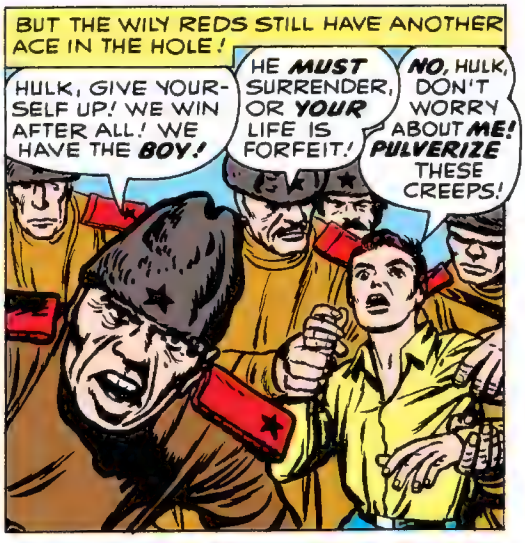

STRIKING THE EARTH LIKE A MIGHTY METEOR, THE HULK CAUSES AN EXPLOSION OF UNIMAGINABLE INTENSITY!
WHOOOOM!


ALTHOUGH IT DOESN'T AFFECT NORMAL EARS, THE ULTRA-SONIC SOUND WAVES PROVE TORTUROUS TO THE SUPER-SENSITIVE EARS OF THE HULK!
E-E-E-

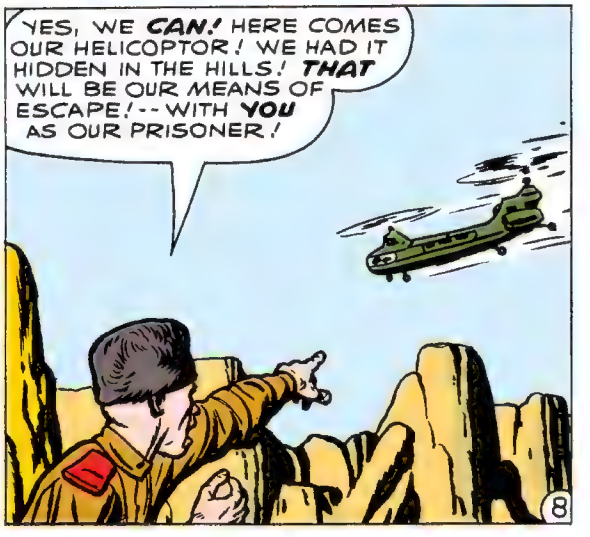
AND, SECONDS LATER, A FEARSOME FIGURE EMERGES DIRECTLY UNDER THE RED SHIP...
NOW IT IS MY TURN!

WHAT---? NO! STOP! HELP!


ONCE THE AGONIZING SOUND IS STILLED, THE HULK IGNORES THE LONE HUMAN AS HE BEGINS TO TEAR THE SHIP APART WITH HIS BARE HANDS!
IT ISN'T A SPACE SHIP! IT'S NOTHING MORE THAN A DISGUISED MIG!
HE ISN'T HUMAN! NOTHING CAN STOP HIM!


BUT THE WILY REDS STILL HAVE ANOTHER ACE IN THE HOLE!
HULK, GIVE YOURSELF UP! WE WIN AFTER ALL! WE HAVE THE BOY!
HE MUST SURRENDER, OR YOUR LIFE IS FORFEIT!
NO, HULK, DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME! PULVERIZE THESE CREEPS!

YOU FOOLS! YOU'RE ALL TRAPPED HERE! YOUR PLANE IS WRECKED! THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN ESCAPE! HURTING THAT KID WON'T HELP YOU!


YES, WE CAN! HERE COMES OUR HELICOPTOR! WE HAD IT HIDDEN IN THE HILLS! THAT WILL BE OUR MEANS OF ESCAPE!--WITH YOU AS OUR PRISONER!

GUESS AGAIN, LOUDMOUTH! THAT BIRD'S GONNA GET ITS WINGS CLIPPED RIGHT NOW!
BEFORE ANY OF THE REDS CAN MOVE A MUSCLE, THE MIGHTY HULK HURLS A PIECE OF THE WRECKED MIG SKYWARD TOWARDS THE HOVERING SHIP! SKIMMING THRU THE AIR LIKE A WHIRLING BLADE, IT SEVERS THE HELICOPTOR'S LANDING GEAR, MAKING FURTHER DESCENT IMPOSSIBLE...
THAT TAKES CARE OF THAT! NOW I CAN FINISH OFF THESE COMMIES WITHOUT ANY MORE INTERRUPTIONS!
BUT THERE IS A LIMIT TO THE FRUSTRATIONS WHICH ANY MEN CAN ENDURE--EVEN COMMUNISTS! AND SO...
TAKE HIM--WE GIVE UP!
STAY BACK! DO NOT HARM US! WE ARE YOUR PRISONERS!
TAKE OFF ALL YOUR BELTS!
WH-WHAT IS HE DOING?
TYING US TOGETHER WITH OUR OWN BELTS!
BUT--WHY?
THIS IS WHY, COMRADES, BECAUSE YOU'RE TAKIN' A LITTLE TRIP!
I'LL TIE YA ON TO THE TOW CABLE OF THIS EGG-BEATER, AND YOU CAN JOIN YOUR LITTLE PLAYMATES INSIDE!
I'M LEAVIN' YA NOW--- BUT IF YOU'RE NOT ON THE WAY BACK TO VODKA-LAND BY THE TIME I HIT EARTH, I'LL BE BACK! AND I WON'T BE SO EASY ON YA NEXT TIME!
HULK--YOU DID IT! YOU DID IT! THEY'VE GONE!
WHAT DID YA EXPECT, HALF-PINT? I WASN'T PLAYIN' FOR FUN!
9

A FEW HOURS LATER, THE ONCE DESERTED PLATEAU IS A BEE-HIVE OF ACTIVITY...

THE "SPACE-SHIP" WAS NOTHING BUT A CAMOFLAUGED MIG! THE "ALIEN" WAS A PHONY SUIT, IN WHICH A NORMAL MAN WAS CONCEALED!

THE WHOLE THING WAS JUST ONE GIGANTIC ***HOAX!***

WE FOUND FOOTPRINTS AND FINGERPRINTS THAT CAN ONLY BELONG TO THE ***HULK!*** HE'S INVOLVED IN THIS SOMEHOW!

THE WHOLE THING MUST BE HIS DOING! HE WANTED US TO THINK THAT HE DEFEATED A MENACE FROM SPACE! HE WANTED TO BE CONSIDERED A HERO!

WHATEVER THE HULK PLANNED TO ACCOMPLISH BY HIS PHONY SCHEME, IT SURE ***BACKFIRED!*** HE DIDN'T FOOL ***ANYBODY!***

YEAH! NOW THE ARMY WANTS TO GET HIM MORE THAN EVER! HE WON'T BE ABLE TO ESCAPE OLD THUNDERBOLT ROSS MUCH LONGER!

METROPOLITAN HERALD

EXTRA!

BATTLE WITH SPACE GLADIATOR RIGGED BY HULK!

PUBLIC TAKEN IN BY BRAZEN HOAX!

"I'LL TRAP THE HULK YET!" SWEARS GENERAL ROSS

BUT, MILES AWAY, IN A HIDDEN CAVE BENEATH THE SEA, ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST FANTASTIC TRANSFORMATIONS IS AGAIN TAKING PLACE, AS THE ANGRY, POWERFUL, BRUTAL HULK SUBJECTS HIMSELF TO THE MYSTERIOUS GAMMA RAYS WHICH HE HAD DISCOVERED WHEN HE WAS DOCTOR BRUCE BANNER...

AND THEN, SLOWLY THE MASSIVE DOOR SWINGS OPEN, AND A WEARY SCIENTIST STAGGERS OUT...

IT'S OVER--FOR NOW!

YOU CAME THRU IT OKAY! I WAS BEGINNIN' TO GET ***WORRIED*** ABOUT YOU!

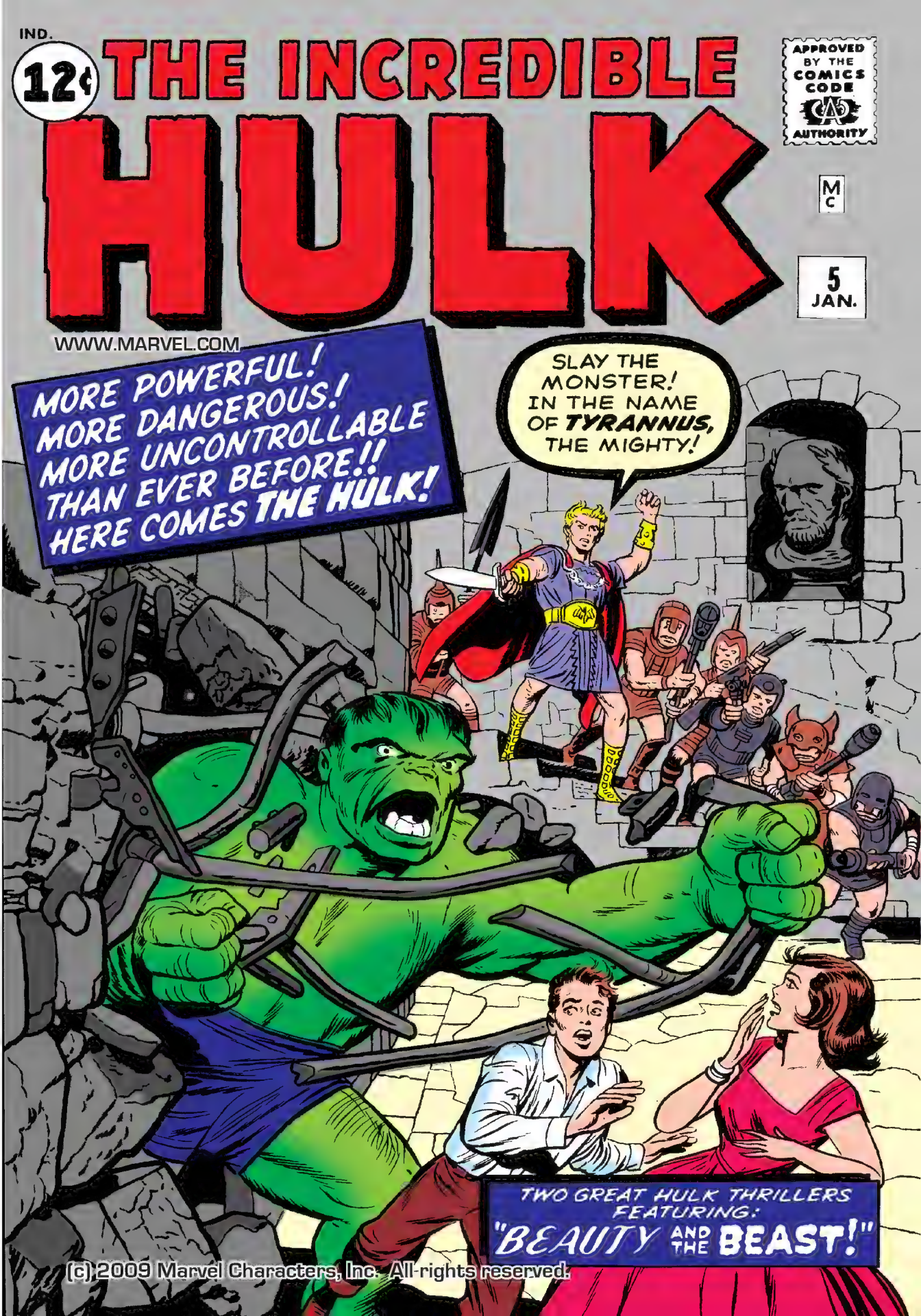
BOY! IT SURE IS HARD TO BELIEVE THAT YOU WERE THE STRONGEST JOE ON EARTH JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO!

LET ME LEAN ON YOUR SHOULDER, RICK! I-I'M TIRED! SO TIRED...

AND SO, THE WORLD'S MOST AMAZING HUMAN, AND THE BOY WHO SHARES HIS AWESOME SECRET, SLOWLY WALK OUT IN THE LIGHT OF DAY... HOPING TO HAVE A LONG BREATHING SPELL, A LONG REST...

...BEFORE THE INCREDIBLE ***HULK*** COMES TO LIFE AGAIN!

CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE



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OUR TALE BEGINS WITH THE SHOWING OF TOP-SECRET ARMY FILMS IN THE HOME OF GENERAL "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS, CHIEF OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE DEFENSE COMMAND!

THERE HE IS--THE DEMONIACAL **HULK!** THREE BRAVE MEN RISKED THEIR LIVES TO GET THESE PICTURES!

"THIS SHOWS OUR FAILURE TO TRAP THE BRUTAL MONSTER BY MEANS OF A GIANT, SPECIALLY-CONSTRUCTED NEURON-MAGNET, DESIGNED TO ATTRACT AND HOLD LIVING BEINGS! THE HULK'S SUPER-HUMAN STRENGTH ENABLED HIM TO SMASH THE MAGNET JUST WHEN WE THOUGHT WE **HAD** HIM!"

"AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF THE HULK'S UNBELIEVABLE STRENGTH, A FREE-LANCE PHOTOGRAPHER TOOK THIS FILM WITH A TELEPHOTO LENS FROM A SAFE DISTANCE AWAY."

"AND **THIS** IS THE MOST INCREDIBLE OF ALL! THE ONLY FILM IN EXISTENCE WHICH SHOWS, IN VIVID DETAIL..."

"...THE HULK'S ABILITY TO SURVIVE ANY EXPLOSION SHORT OF AN ACTUAL ATOMIC DEVICE!"

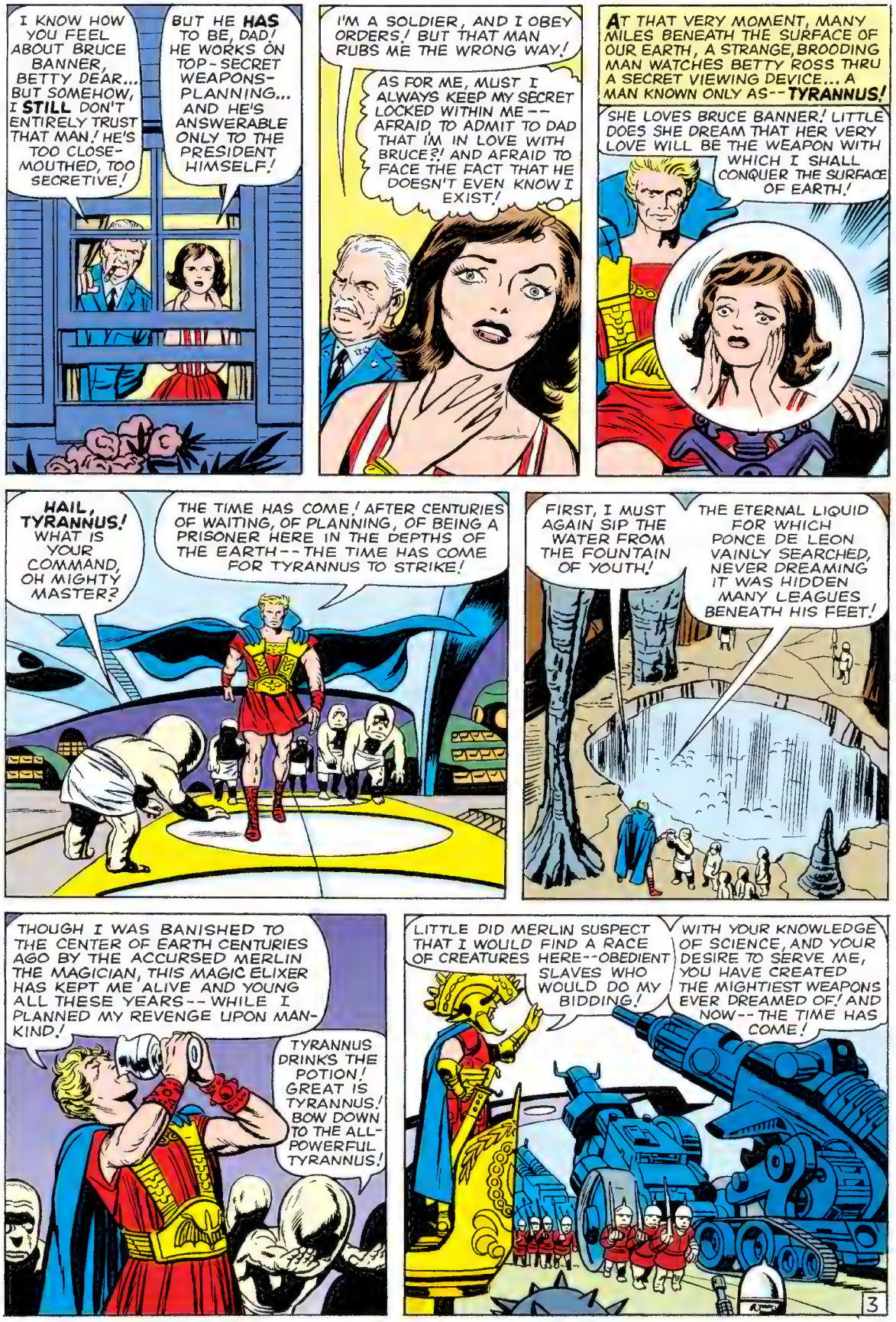
THAT'S WHAT I'M UP AGAINST! IT'S **MY** JOB TO CATCH THAT RAMPAGING MONSTER! NO MATTER **HOW** POWERFUL HE IS, THIS GOVERNMENT WANTS HIM **STOPPED!**

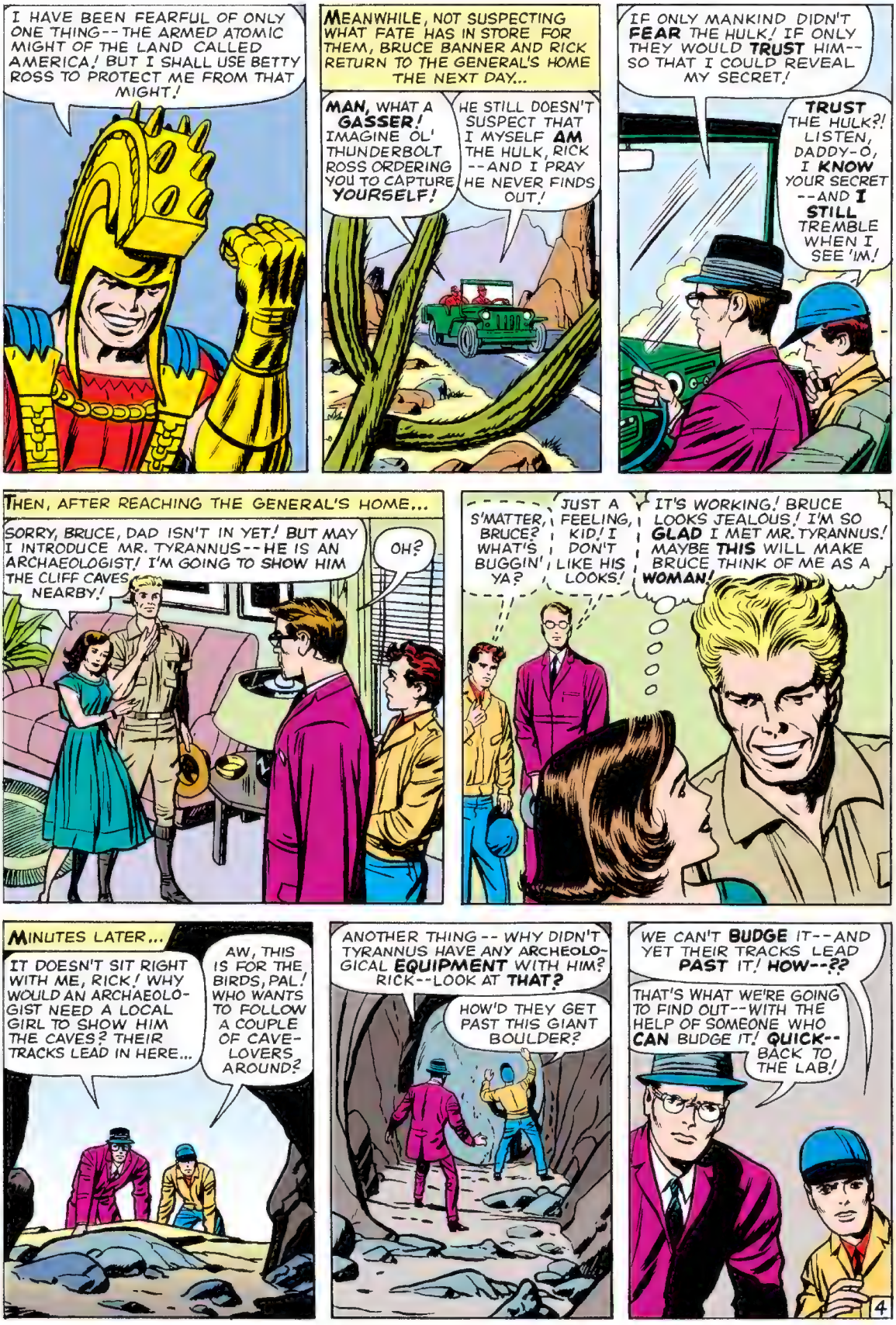
BUT I CAN'T DO IT BY MILITARY MEANS ALONE, BANNER! I NEED **SCIENTIFIC** HELP--AND THAT'S WHERE **YOU** COME IN! AS TOP SCIENTIST ON MY STAFF, YOU'VE GOT TO THINK OF A WAY TO CONQUER THAT MAN-BEAST!

CAN'T MAKE ANY PROMISES, SIR, BUT RICK AND I WILL DO OUR BEST TO THINK OF SOMETHING!

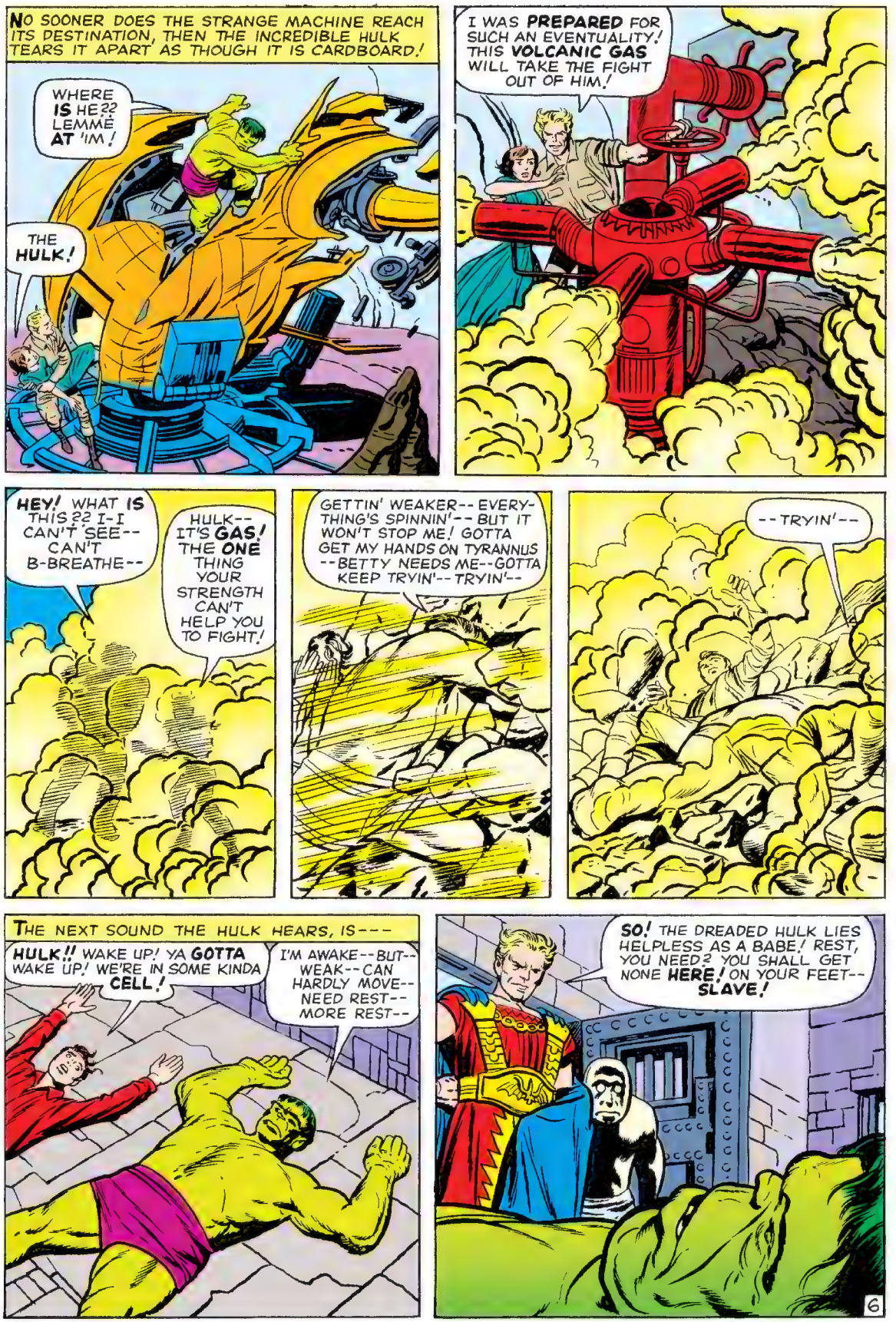
RICK! **BAH!** I CAN'T SEE WHY YOU INSIST ON HAVING THAT INSOLENT TEEN-AGER AS YOUR ASSISTANT!

OH, DAD, DON'T BE SO GRUMPY! YOU KNOW THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT HAS GIVEN BRUCE THE RIGHT TO SELECT ANY AIDES HE CHOOSES!

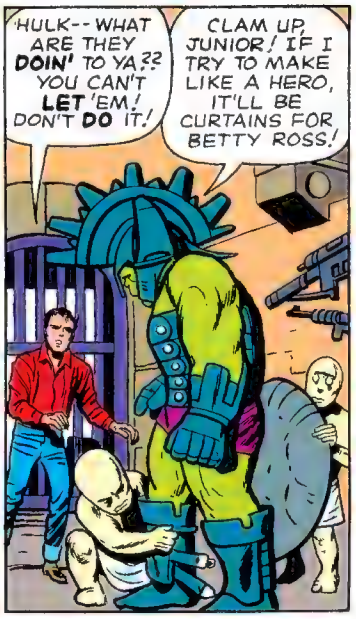

I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT BRUCE BANNER, BETTY DEAR... BUT SOMEHOW, I STILL DON'T ENTIRELY TRUST THAT MAN! HE'S TOO CLOSE-MOUTHED, TOO SECRETIVE!
BUT HE HAS TO BE, DAD! HE WORKS ON TOP-SECRET WEAPONS-PLANNING... AND HE'S ANSWERABLE ONLY TO THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF!
I'M A SOLDIER, AND I OBEY ORDERS! BUT THAT MAN RUBS ME THE WRONG WAY!
AS FOR ME, MUST I ALWAYS KEEP MY SECRET LOCKED WITHIN ME -- AFRAID TO ADMIT TO DAD THAT I'M IN LOVE WITH BRUCE?! AND AFRAID TO FACE THE FACT THAT HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW I EXIST!
AT THAT VERY MOMENT, MANY MILES BENEATH THE SURFACE OF OUR EARTH, A STRANGE, BROODING MAN WATCHES BETTY ROSS THRU A SECRET VIEWING DEVICE... A MAN KNOWN ONLY AS--TYRANNUS!
SHE LOVES BRUCE BANNER! LITTLE DOES SHE DREAM THAT HER VERY LOVE WILL BE THE WEAPON WITH WHICH I SHALL CONQUER THE SURFACE OF EARTH!
HAIL, TYRANNUS! WHAT IS YOUR COMMAND, OH MIGHTY MASTER?
THE TIME HAS COME! AFTER CENTURIES OF WAITING, OF PLANNING, OF BEING A PRISONER HERE IN THE DEPTHS OF THE EARTH -- THE TIME HAS COME FOR TYRANNUS TO STRIKE!
FIRST, I MUST AGAIN SIP THE WATER FROM THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH!
THE ETERNAL LIQUID FOR WHICH PONCE DE LEON VAINLY SEARCHED, NEVER DREAMING IT WAS HIDDEN MANY LEAGUES BENEATH HIS FEET!
THOUGH I WAS BANISHED TO THE CENTER OF EARTH CENTURIES AGO BY THE ACCURSED MERLIN THE MAGICIAN, THIS MAGIC ELIXER HAS KEPT ME ALIVE AND YOUNG ALL THESE YEARS -- WHILE I PLANNED MY REVENGE UPON MANKIND!
TYRANNUS DRINKS THE POTION! GREAT IS TYRANNUS! BOW DOWN TO THE ALL-POWERFUL TYRANNUS!
LITTLE DID MERLIN SUSPECT THAT I WOULD FIND A RACE OF CREATURES HERE -- OBEDIENT SLAVES WHO WOULD DO MY BIDDING!
WITH YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF SCIENCE, AND YOUR DESIRE TO SERVE ME, YOU HAVE CREATED THE MIGHTIEST WEAPONS EVER DREAMED OF! AND NOW -- THE TIME HAS COME!
3


I HAVE BEEN FEARFUL OF ONLY ONE THING--THE ARMED ATOMIC MIGHT OF THE LAND CALLED AMERICA! BUT I SHALL USE BETTY ROSS TO PROTECT ME FROM THAT MIGHT!
MEANWHILE, NOT SUSPECTING WHAT FATE HAS IN STORE FOR THEM, BRUCE BANNER AND RICK RETURN TO THE GENERAL'S HOME THE NEXT DAY...
MAN, WHAT A GASSER! IMAGINE OL' THUNDERBOLT ROSS ORDERING YOU TO CAPTURE YOURSELF!
HE STILL DOESN'T SUSPECT THAT I MYSELF AM THE HULK, RICK --AND I PRAY HE NEVER FINDS OUT!
IF ONLY MANKIND DIDN'T FEAR THE HULK! IF ONLY THEY WOULD TRUST HIM--SO THAT I COULD REVEAL MY SECRET!
TRUST THE HULK?! LISTEN, DADDY-O, I KNOW YOUR SECRET --AND I STILL TREMBLE WHEN I SEE 'IM!
THEN, AFTER REACHING THE GENERAL'S HOME...
SORRY, BRUCE, DAD ISN'T IN YET! BUT MAY I INTRODUCE MR. TYRANNUS--HE IS AN ARCHAEOLOGIST! I'M GOING TO SHOW HIM THE CLIFF CAVES NEARBY!
OH?
S'MATTER, BRUCE? WHAT'S BUGGIN' YA?
JUST A FEELING, KID! I DON'T LIKE HIS LOOKS!
IT'S WORKING! BRUCE LOOKS JEALOUS! I'M SO GLAD I MET MR. TYRANNUS! MAYBE THIS WILL MAKE BRUCE THINK OF ME AS A WOMAN!
MINUTES LATER...
IT DOESN'T SIT RIGHT WITH ME, RICK! WHY WOULD AN ARCHAEOLOGIST NEED A LOCAL GIRL TO SHOW HIM THE CAVES? THEIR TRACKS LEAD IN HERE...
AW, THIS IS FOR THE BIRDS, PAL! WHO WANTS TO FOLLOW A COUPLE OF CAVE-LOVERS AROUND?
ANOTHER THING -- WHY DIDN'T TYRANNUS HAVE ANY ARCHEOLOGICAL EQUIPMENT WITH HIM? RICK--LOOK AT THAT?
HOW'D THEY GET PAST THIS GIANT BOULDER?
WE CAN'T BUDGE IT--AND YET THEIR TRACKS LEAD PAST IT! HOW--??
THAT'S WHAT WE'RE GOING TO FIND OUT--WITH THE HELP OF SOMEONE WHO CAN BUDGE IT! QUICK--BACK TO THE LAB!
4

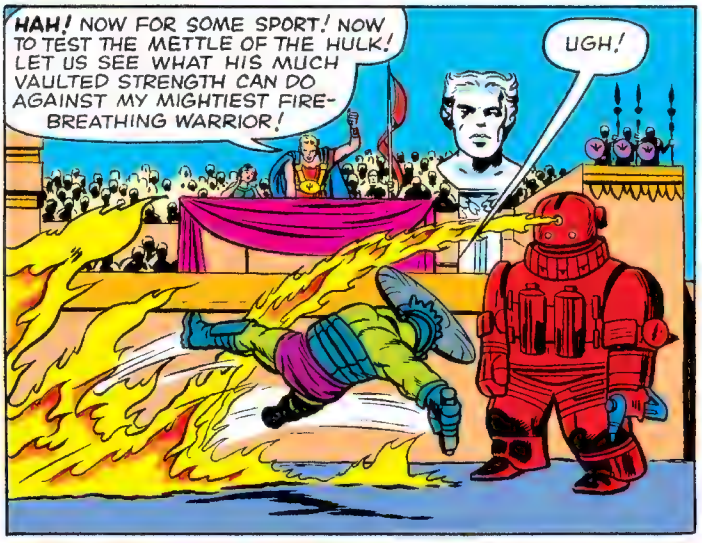
MEANWHILE...ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BOULDER...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND--THIS MACHINE---WHAT IS IT? WHERE DID IT COME FROM? WHERE ARE WE GOING? YOU--YOU'RE NO STRANGER HERE!
STRANGER?? OF COURSE I AM NO STRANGER! THIS IS MY KINGDOM--MY DOMAIN! YOU ARE ABOUT TO SEE WONDERS YOU HAVE NEVER DREAMED OF BEFORE!
SEE HOW I CAN OBSERVE ANYONE ON THE SURFACE BY A FLICK OF A SWITCH! THERE IS YOUR FATHER--WORRYING ABOUT YOU--AS I KNEW HE WOULD BE!
AND, BY TURNING ANOTHER SWITCH, I CAN EVEN MAKE HIM SEE US! GENERAL, YOUR DAUGHTER IS MY PRISONER! IF YOU VALUE HER SAFETY, YOU WILL PROMISE NOT TO DEFY ME WHEN MY LEGIONS ATTACK YOUR SURFACE WORLD! I WILL CONTACT YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR ANSWER! THIS IS TYRANNUS --THE SUPREME ONE!
YOU-YOU MUST BE MAD!
SILENCE, WOMAN! I WAS A BRILLIANT MASTER OF BLACK MAGIC A THOUSAND YEARS BEFORE YOU WERE BORN!
MEANWHILE, AS TYRANNUS TAKES HIS BEWILDERED PRISONER DEEPER INTO THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH, THE MOST POWERFUL CREATURE OF ALL LEAPS TOWARDS THE ENTRANCE CAVE...
HULK, LOOK! THE ROCK IS GONE!
SHUDDUP, KID! I GOT EYES, AINT I?
THAT BUSHY-HAIRED GRINNIN' APE IS IN THERE SOMEWHERE WITH BETTY ROSS, AND I'M GONNA FIND 'EM! SO GET LOST, KID! I GOT THINGS TO DO!
NO, HULK--YOU GOTTA LET ME GO WITH YOU!
THERE HE IS!
HOLD ON, BUSTER! YOU AINT GOIN' ANYWHERE!
THE MAN MONSTER! YOU ARE TOO LATE TO STOP ME NOW!
HULK--WHAT'S HAPPENIN'?? WHERE ARE WE GOIN'??
WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE, DUMBHEAD??! HE'S HEADIN' FOR THE CENTER OF THE EARTH--AND WE'RE GOIN' TOO!


NO SOONER DOES THE STRANGE MACHINE REACH ITS DESTINATION, THEN THE INCREDIBLE HULK TEARS IT APART AS THOUGH IT IS CARDBOARD!
WHERE IS HE?? LEMME AT 'IM!
THE HULK!
I WAS PREPARED FOR SUCH AN EVENTUALITY! THIS VOLCANIC GAS WILL TAKE THE FIGHT OUT OF HIM!
HEY! WHAT IS THIS?? I-I CAN'T SEE-- CAN'T B-BREATHE--
HULK-- IT'S GAS! THE ONE THING YOUR STRENGTH CAN'T HELP YOU TO FIGHT!
GETTIN' WEAKER-- EVERYTHING'S SPINNIN'-- BUT IT WON'T STOP ME! GOTTA GET MY HANDS ON TYRANNUS --BETTY NEEDS ME--GOTTA KEEP TRYIN'-- TRYIN'--
--TRYIN'--
THE NEXT SOUND THE HULK HEARS, IS---
HULK!! WAKE UP! YA GOTTA WAKE UP! WE'RE IN SOME KINDA CELL!
I'M AWAKE--BUT-- WEAK--CAN HARDLY MOVE-- NEED REST-- MORE REST--
SO! THE DREADED HULK LIES HELPLESS AS A BABE! REST, YOU NEED? YOU SHALL GET NONE HERE! ON YOUR FEET-- SLAVE!
6

WITHIN MOMENTS THE EFFECTS OF THE GAS WILL WEAR OFF, BUT EVEN WITH YOUR STRENGTH RETURNED, YOU WILL **STILL** OBEY ME--FOR THE **GIRL** IS MY PRISONER! SO LONG AS I AM HER CAPTOR, **YOU** ARE MY **SLAVE!**

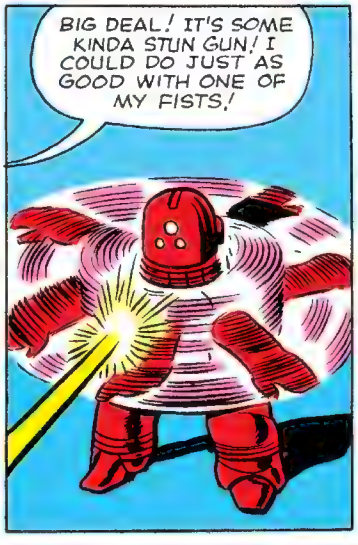

'HULK--WHAT ARE THEY **DOIN'** TO YA?? YOU CAN'T **LET** 'EM! DON'T **DO** IT!
CLAM UP, JUNIOR! IF I TRY TO MAKE LIKE A HERO, IT'LL BE CURTAINS FOR BETTY ROSS!

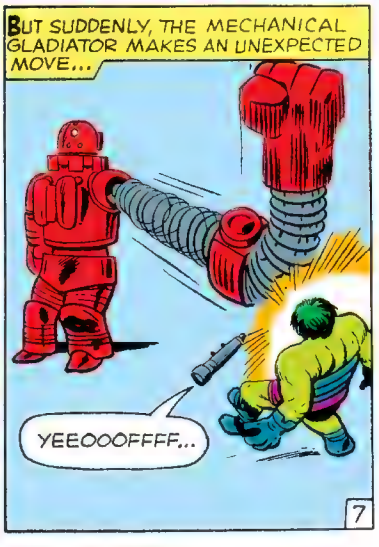
WHY DID THEY GIVE YOU THAT ASBESTOS SHIELD? AND THAT COSTUME? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
WHO CARES? I AINT GONNA WASTE TIME **WORRYIN'!**


HAH! NOW FOR SOME SPORT! NOW TO TEST THE METTLE OF THE HULK! LET US SEE WHAT HIS MUCH VAULTED STRENGTH CAN DO AGAINST MY MIGHTIEST FIRE-BREATHING WARRIOR!
UGH!

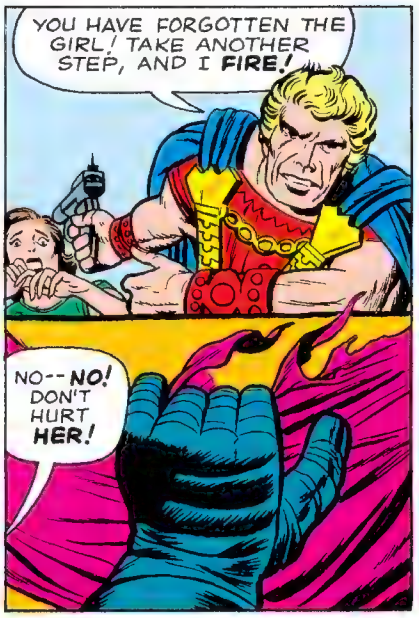
SO **THIS** IS WHY THEY GAVE ME A FIRE-PROOF SHIELD, HUH?
WELL, I MIGHT AS WELL FIND OUT WHAT THIS OTHER GIZMO IS, TOO?

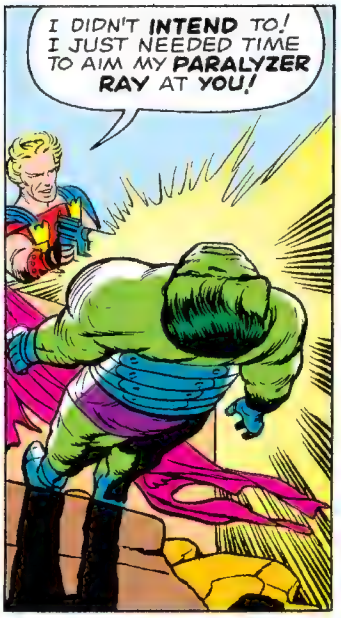
ALL RIGHT, YA WALKIN' SCRAP-PILE, HERE'S SOMETHIN' RIGHT **BACK** AT YA!


BIG DEAL! IT'S SOME KINDA STUN GUN! I COULD DO JUST AS GOOD WITH ONE OF MY FISTS!

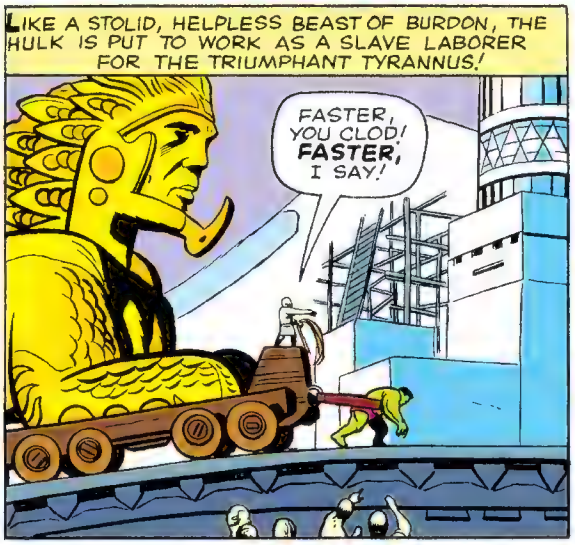

BUT SUDDENLY, THE MECHANICAL GLADIATOR MAKES AN UNEXPECTED MOVE...
YEEOOOFFFF...

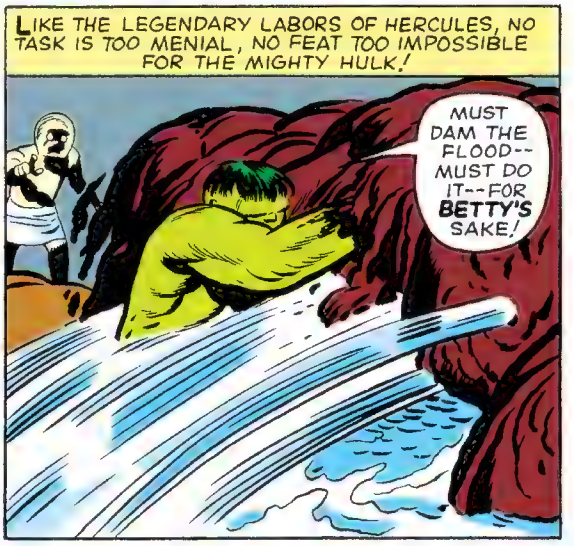
YA GOT ALL KINDS OF TRICKY LITTLE GADGETS, HUH? WELL, JUST WAIT TILL-- OOOF!
WHAM!
YUH GOTTA RUN OUT OF STEAM SOONER OR LATER, AND WHEN YA DO--
HAH! NOW I GOT THAT STEEL CONTROL CABLE OF YOURS! DIDN'T EXPECT ME TO YANK IT OUT, DID YA?
ALL RIGHT, TIN-MAN-- NOW IT'S MY TURN!
AS THE HULK ADVANCES UPON HIS MECHANICAL FOE, ALL ELSE IS FORGOTTON SAVE THE BRUTAL LOVE OF BATTLE!
THE PART OF HIS PERSONALITY WHICH IS STILL BRUCE BANNER IS ALMOST GONE--AND FOR THAT BRIEF INSTANT OF RED-HOT RAGE, ONLY THE BESTIAL, UNHUMAN ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION STANDS IN HIS PLACE!
THIS'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU!
BUT I AINT STOPPIN' HERE--
I STILL GOT A SCORE TO SETTLE-- WITH TYRANNUS!
STOP! STOP, YOU BRAINLESS GARGOYLE!

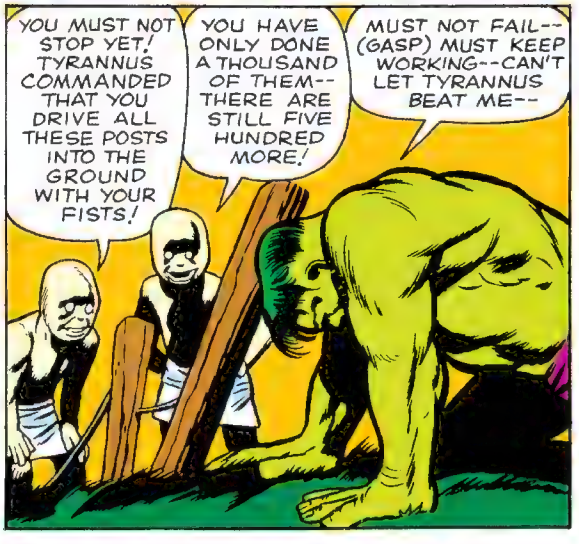

YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN THE GIRL! TAKE ANOTHER STEP, AND I FIRE!
NO--NO! DON'T HURT HER!

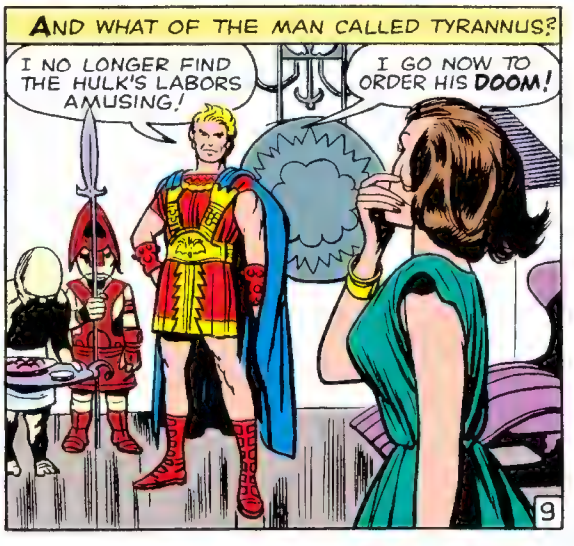

I DIDN'T INTEND TO! I JUST NEEDED TIME TO AIM MY PARALYZER RAY AT YOU!

TYRANNUS FORGOT ABOUT ME! GUESS I'M NOT IMPORTANT ENOUGH FOR HIM TO WORRY ABOUT! BUT I GOTTA FIND SOME WAY TO FREE THE HULK, OR IT'LL BE CURTAINS FOR ALL OF US!

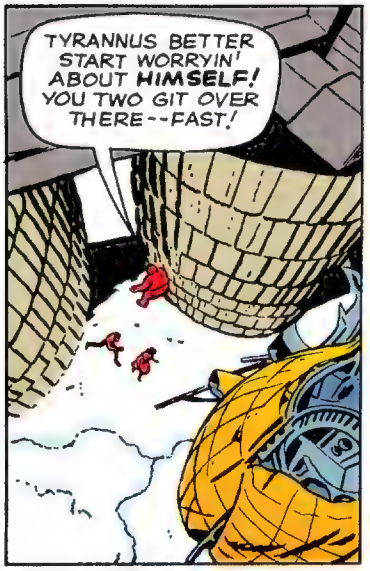

LIKE A STOLID, HELPLESS BEAST OF BURDON, THE HULK IS PUT TO WORK AS A SLAVE LABORER FOR THE TRIUMPHANT TYRANNUS!
FASTER, YOU CLOD! FASTER, I SAY!


LIKE THE LEGENDARY LABORS OF HERCULES, NO TASK IS TOO MENIAL, NO FEAT TOO IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE MIGHTY HULK!
MUST DAM THE FLOOD--MUST DO IT--FOR BETTY'S SAKE!


YOU MUST NOT STOP YET! TYRANNUS COMMANDED THAT YOU DRIVE ALL THESE POSTS INTO THE GROUND WITH YOUR FISTS!
YOU HAVE ONLY DONE A THOUSAND OF THEM--THERE ARE STILL FIVE HUNDRED MORE!
MUST NOT FAIL--(GASP) MUST KEEP WORKING--CAN'T LET TYRANNUS BEAT ME--

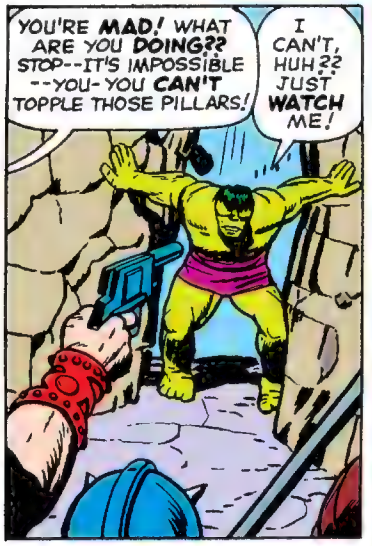

AND WHAT OF THE MAN CALLED TYRANNUS?
I NO LONGER FIND THE HULK'S LABORS AMUSING!
I GO NOW TO ORDER HIS DOOM!

NO SOONER DOES THE HEARTLESS TYRANNUS LEAVE THE CHAMBER THAN A STEEL-HELMETED FIGURE IMPERIOUSLY ENTERS...
PRAISE TYRANNUS! I HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO BRING THE GIRL TO HIM!
OH NO-- NO!
THAT'S IT-- KEEP SCREAMING! MAKE IT LOOK GOOD! THIS IS A ONE-IN-A-MILLION GAMBLE, BUT IT HAS TO WORK!
WHAT--?? WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU MEAN??
OH! I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED! IT'S YOU!
YOU WERE EXPECTIN' MEBBE CHUBBY CHECKER?? KNOCK OFF THE DUMB REMARKS AND LET'S MOVE! TYRANNUS HAS ORDERED HIS GOONS TO GET RID OF THE HULK!
HULK--GET UP! DO YA HEAR ME?? GET UP!
GO 'WAY-- CAN'T DO ANYTHING-- CAN'T TAKE A CHANCE OF HIM HARMING BETTY ROSS!
NO, HULK-- NO! I'M SAFE! YOU MUST SAVE YOURSELF! HURRY!
THEY'RE COMING FOR YOU NOW! YOU MUST FIGHT BACK! IT'S YOUR ONLY CHANCE! IT'S-SOB-OUR ONLY CHANCE!
YOU'RE SAFE!
STAND ASIDE, FEMALE! WE ARE HERE FOR THE HULK!
NOW, HULK-- NOW!
SHE'S SAFE! I DON'T HAVETA WORRY ABOUT HER!
THIS IS WHAT I BEEN WAITIN' FOR! GIT OUTTA MY WAY-- ALL OF YA!
HAH! DID YA SEE 'EM RUN LIKE WHIPPED CURS?? AND THAT'S ONLY THE BEGINNING!
MEBBE SO, BUT WE AINT OUTTA THIS YET!
TYRANNUS WILL NEVER LET US ESCAPE!

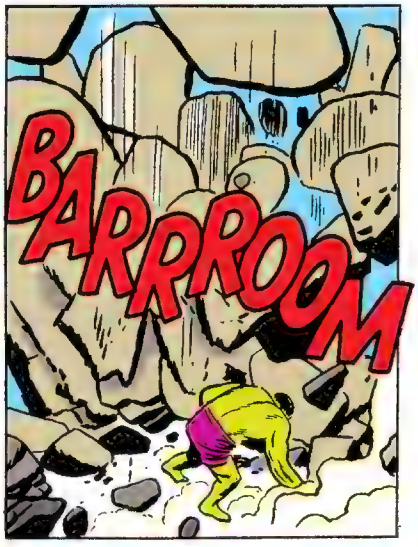

TYRANNUS BETTER START WORRYIN' ABOUT HIMSELF! YOU TWO GIT OVER THERE--FAST!

THE HULK IS FREE!
INCOMPETENT FOOLS! YOU'LL PAY WITH YOUR LIVES IF YOU DO NOT CATCH HIM! OBEY ME --OBEY YOUR MASTER!

YOU'RE THRU GIVIN' ORDERS, BIG MAN! THIS IS WHERE I LOWER THE BOOM!


YOU'RE MAD! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?? STOP--IT'S IMPOSSIBLE --YOU- YOU CAN'T TOPPLE THOSE PILLARS!
I CAN'T, HUH?? JUST WATCH ME!

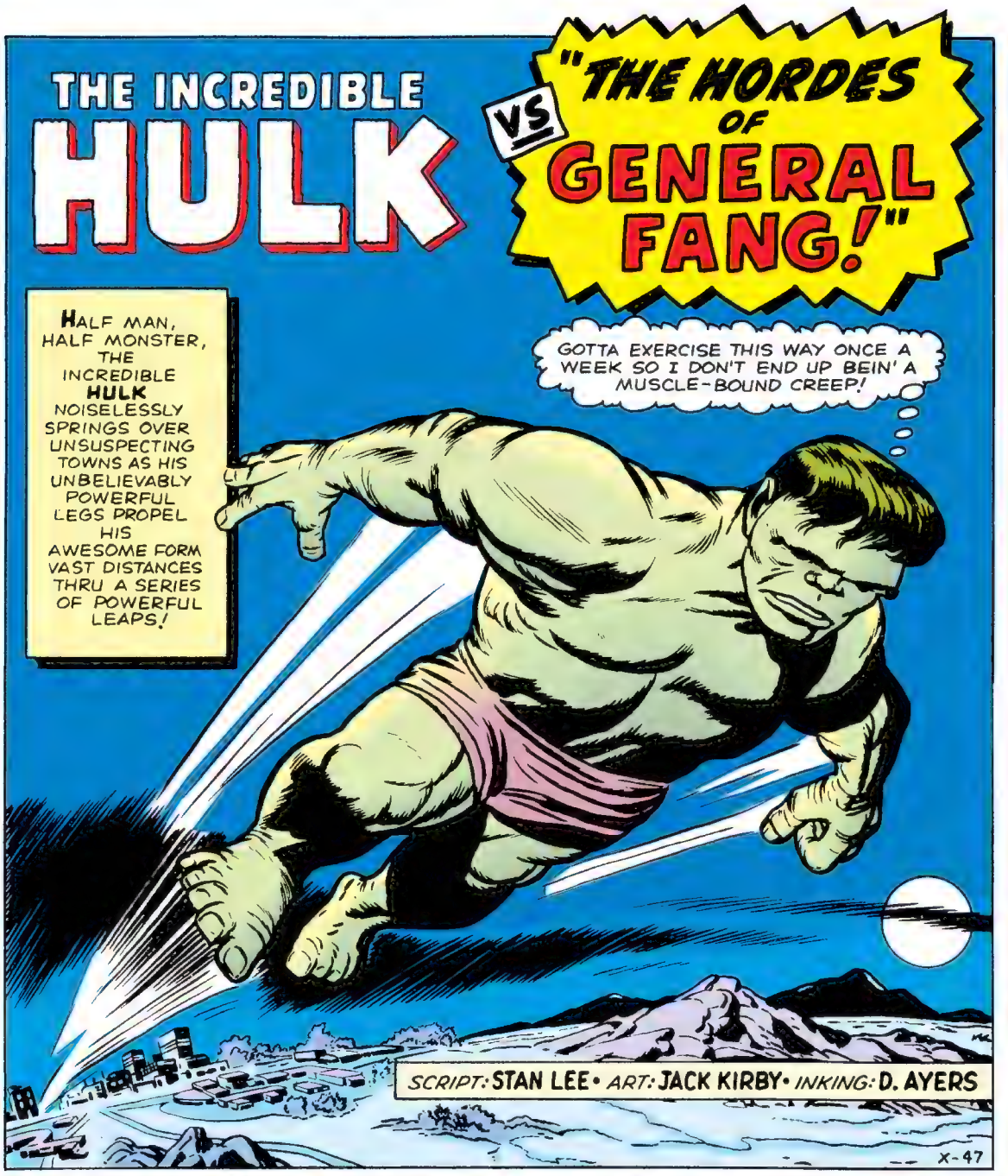
NO--NO! YOU'LL SEAL ME IN HERE--I'LL NEVER REACH THE SURFACE AGAIN! STOP--DON'T--I'LL GIVE YOU ANYTHING--ANYTHING!
TOO LATE, TYRANNUS! THIS IS YOUR FINISH!

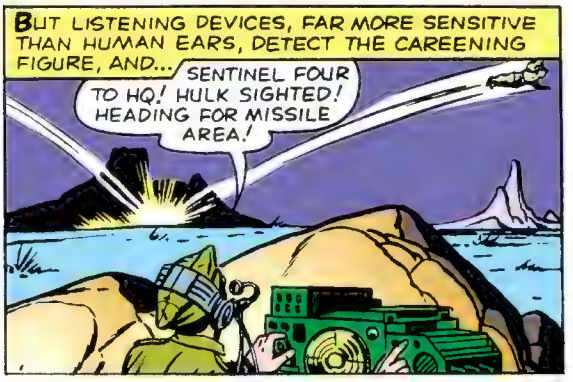

BARRROOM

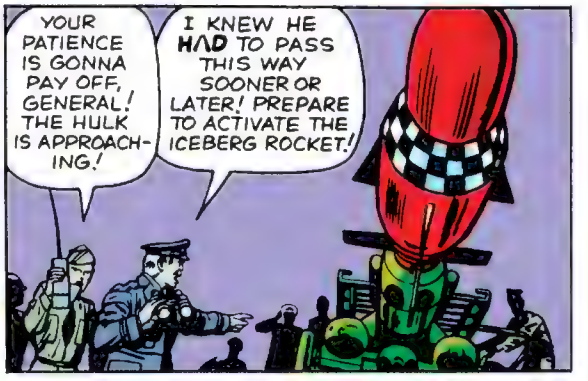
MINUTES LATER, THREE WEARY FIGURES REACH THE SUB-SURFACE ESCAPE CAPSULE WHICH RESTS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DEBACLE...
BETTY'S ALREADY SAFELY INSIDE, HULK! GOSH, I NEVER THOUGHT EVEN YOU COULDA PULLED OFF A STUNT LIKE THAT!
AINT NOTHIN' I CAN'T DO, SQUIRT --AND DON'T EVER FORGET IT!
11

BETTY'S IN A STATE OF SHOCK, HULK! SHE DOESN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING THAT HAPPENED DOWN THERE! IT'S SOME KIND OF AMNESIA!
JUST MY LUCK! THAT MEANS SHE'LL STILL HATE ME, AND FEAR ME, WHEN WE REACH THE SURFACE! BUT WHO CARES! I DON'T NEED HER!

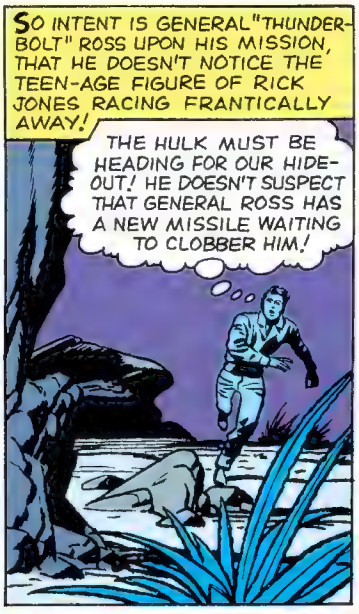
LET HER FEAR ME! LET 'EM ALL FEAR ME! MAYBE THEY GOT GOOD REASON TO! 'CAUSE THEY'RE ONLY HUMANS-- BUT I'M--THE HULK!
THE END

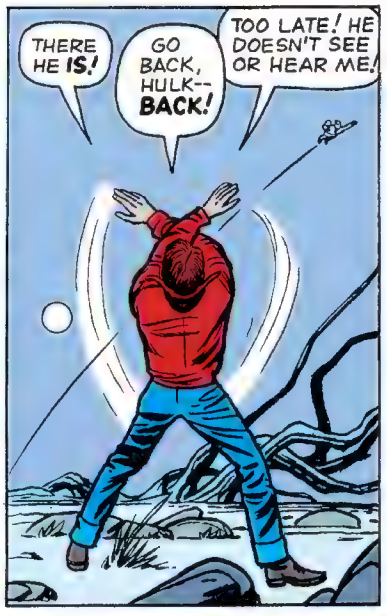

THE INCREDIBLE
HULK
VS
"THE HORDES OF GENERAL FANG!"
HALF MAN, HALF MONSTER, THE INCREDIBLE HULK NOISELESSLY SPRINGS OVER UNSUSPECTING TOWNS AS HIS UNBELIEVABLY POWERFUL LEGS PROPEL HIS AWESOME FORM VAST DISTANCES THRU A SERIES OF POWERFUL LEAPS!
GOTTA EXERCISE THIS WAY ONCE A WEEK SO I DON'T END UP BEIN' A MUSCLE-BOUND CREEP!
SCRIPT: STAN LEE • ART: JACK KIRBY • INKING: D. AYERS
X-47


BUT LISTENING DEVICES, FAR MORE SENSITIVE THAN HUMAN EARS, DETECT THE CAREENING FIGURE, AND...
SENTINEL FOUR TO HQ! HULK SIGHTED! HEADING FOR MISSILE AREA!


YOUR PATIENCE IS GONNA PAY OFF, GENERAL! THE HULK IS APPROACHING!
I KNEW HE HAD TO PASS THIS WAY SOONER OR LATER! PREPARE TO ACTIVATE THE ICEBERG ROCKET!

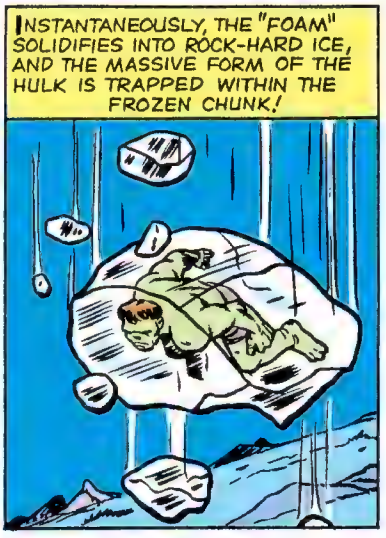
GOOD THING I TALKED GENERAL ROSS INTO LETTING ME HANG AROUND THIS AREA! I'VE GOT TO **WARN** THE HULK!
YOU WON'T ESCAPE ME **AGAIN,** HULK! MY ICEBERG MISSILE WILL BE YOUR UNDOING! JUST WAIT!

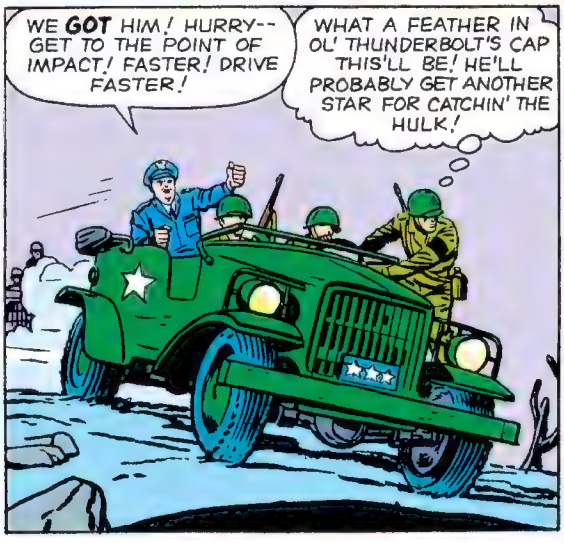

SO INTENT IS GENERAL "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS UPON HIS MISSION, THAT HE DOESN'T NOTICE THE TEEN-AGE FIGURE OF RICK JONES RACING FRANTICALLY AWAY!
THE HULK MUST BE HEADING FOR OUR HIDE-OUT! HE DOESN'T SUSPECT THAT GENERAL ROSS HAS A NEW MISSILE WAITING TO CLOBBER HIM!

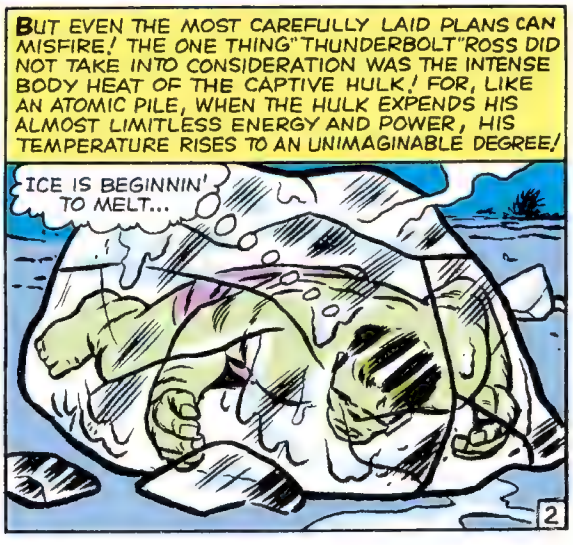

THERE HE **IS!**
GO BACK, HULK-- **BACK!**
TOO LATE! HE DOESN'T SEE OR HEAR ME!

THEN, AT THAT SPLIT SECOND, THE ROCKET IS FIRED -- A ROCKET DESIGNED FOR ONLY ONE PURPOSE --TO DESTROY THE HULK!

WHAT'S GOIN' ON?? THAT MISSILE'S HOMIN' IN ON ME! **HEY--** IT'S SHOOTIN' OFF SOME KINDA **FOAM!**


INSTANTANEOUSLY, THE "FOAM" SOLIDIFIES INTO ROCK-HARD ICE, AND THE MASSIVE FORM OF THE HULK IS TRAPPED WITHIN THE FROZEN CHUNK!

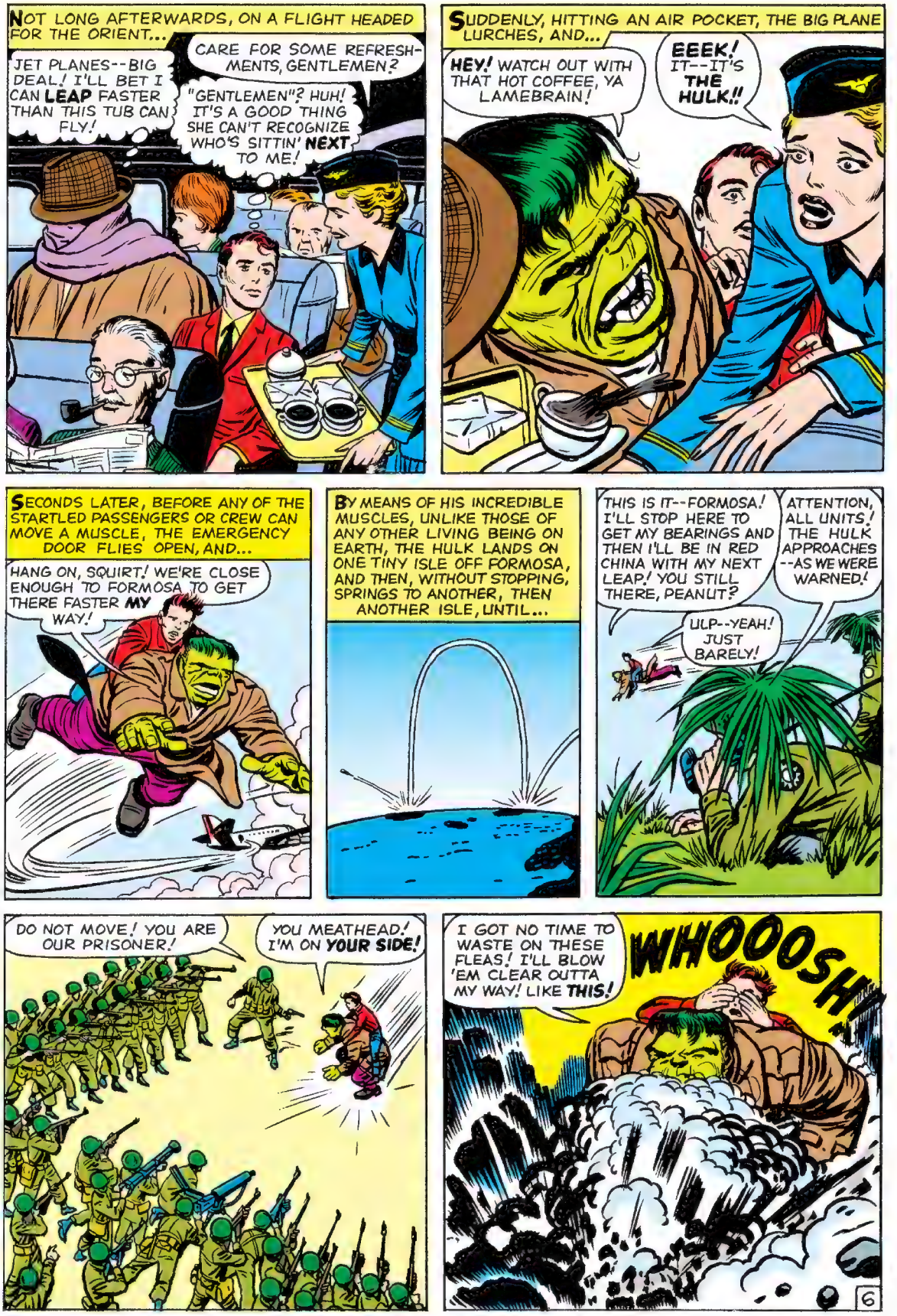

WE **GOT** HIM! HURRY-- GET TO THE POINT OF IMPACT! FASTER! DRIVE FASTER!
WHAT A FEATHER IN OL' THUNDERBOLT'S CAP THIS'LL BE! HE'LL PROBABLY GET ANOTHER STAR FOR CATCHIN' THE HULK!


BUT EVEN THE MOST CAREFULLY LAID PLANS CAN MISFIRE! THE ONE THING "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS DID NOT TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION WAS THE INTENSE BODY HEAT OF THE CAPTIVE HULK! FOR, LIKE AN ATOMIC PILE, WHEN THE HULK EXPENDS HIS ALMOST LIMITLESS ENERGY AND POWER, HIS TEMPERATURE RISES TO AN UNIMAGINABLE DEGREE!
ICE IS BEGINNIN' TO MELT...

AND, BY THE TIME THE ASTONISHED PURSUERS REACH THEIR GOAL...
HE'S FREE! GET HIM-- BEFORE HE CAN LEAP AWAY!
SO--IT WAS ROSS WHO DID THIS! I'LL REMEMBER THAT!
GRAB 'IM! OOOF!
COME BACK, YOU BLASTED FREAK!
WE'RE TOO LATE!
WHEW! THAT WAS A NARROW ONE! NOW I'D BETTER HUSTLE TO OUR HIDEOUT! THE HULK'LL BLOW HIS TOP IF I AIN'T THERE WAITIN' FOR HIM!
BUT FAST AS RICK JONES CAN RUN, HE IS NO MATCH FOR THE INCREDIBLE HULK!
HERE'S THE PLACE! BUT THE HULK MUSTA BEAT ME BY A MILE!
HE'S PROBABLY WAITIN' IN THE UNDERWATER DUNGEON FOR ME TO HELP HIM WORK THAT RAY MACHINE OF HIS, SO'S HE CAN TURN BACK TO DR. BRUCE BANNER!
THERE HE IS--BUT--
STAY BACK! THE HULK WAITS FOR NO ONE! LEAST OF ALL, A TEEN-AGED BRAT!
I CAN WORK THIS RAY BY JUST STEPPING ON THE CONTROL BUTTONS BENEATH MY FEET! BAH! HOW I HATE GIVING UP MY POWER--MY STRENGTH--JUST TO RETURN TO THE DULL, ORDINARY HUMAN FORM OF...
...BRUCE BANNER!
3

MINUTES LATER...
TAKE IT EASY, BRUCE! YOU MUST BE FEELIN' WEAK AS USUAL AFTER YOUR CHANGE!
I AM, RICK! BUT THERE IS ONE THING WORRYING ME -- ONE THING THAT I FEAR...
EACH TIME I BECOME THE HULK, I GROW MORE AND MORE UNWILLING TO RETURN TO MY NORMAL SELF! THAT'S WHY I NEED YOU, LAD -- YOU MUST NEVER LET ME REMAIN THE HULK -- NOT IF YOU CAN HELP IT!
DON'T WORRY, BRUCE! I UNDERSTAND!
IN A TINY ASIAN VILLAGE IN THE PRINCIPALITY OF LLHASA, THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY, EVENTS WHICH ARE ABOUT TO AFFECT THE AMAZING LIVES OF THE HULK AND RICK JONES, ARE TAKING PLACE...
TAKE TO THE HILLS, MY BROTHERS! GENERAL FANG APPROACHES!
THE HORDES OF GENERAL FANG! WE ARE DOOMED!
OH, MOST HONORED HIGH LAMA, I AM THE BEARER OF DIRE NEWS! THE BLOODTHIRSTY SCOURGE OF ASIA, GENERAL FANG, IS LEADING HIS BRUTAL HORDES TO LLHASA!
ALAS, I FEARED IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HE PLUNDERED OUR HELPLESS LAND!
GENERAL FANG IS THE MOST BRUTAL WARLORD SINCE GHENGIS KHAN!
WHAT SHALL WE DO, MOST NOBLE ONE? WHAT IS YOUR COMMAND?
WE ARE NOT A WAR-LIKE PEOPLE! OUR ONLY HOPE IS TO APPEAL TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD FOR HELP! BUT I FEAR IT WILL BE -- TOO LATE!
EVEN AS THE GENTLE HIGH LAMA SPEAKS, THE BRUTAL HORDES OF GENERAL FANG DRAW CLOSER TO LLHASA, AS THE EVIL PLUNDERERS PREPARE TO RAVAGE THE LAND!
AND, AT THEIR HEAD, STANDS THE MOST FEARED MARAUDER OF ALL -- THE COLD-BLOODED GENERAL FANG!
FASTER, YOU DOGS! MY PATIENCE WEARS THIN! I AM EAGER TO STRIKE!
YOU HEARD THE MASTER! LIFT YOUR FEET, WORTHLESS ONES! MOVE!
4

THUS DOES FATE SLOWLY, INEXORABLY DRAW HER WEB TIGHTER AND TIGHTER!
BULLETIN! AN URGENT PLEA FOR HELP HAS COME FROM THE TINY PRINCIPALITY LLHASA! THE HORDES OF GENERAL FANG ARE POISED TO ATTACK...
GENERAL FANG! IF HE ISN'T STOPPED, HE'LL PLUNGE THE WORLD INTO WAR!
HE SNEERS AT THREATS, WARNINGS, SANCTIONS! THERE IS ONLY ONE LANGUAGE HE UNDERSTANDS--THE LANGUAGE OF BRUTE FORCE!
WHATCHA GONNA DO, BRUCE?
I? I SHALL DO NOTHING!
I AM MERELY ONE LONE MAN--POWERLESS TO AFFECT THE DEMONIAC GENERAL FANG!
BUT THERE IS ANOTHER WHO IS NOT POWERLESS!
IT'S TIME FOR THE HULK TO LIVE AGAIN!
B-BUT, HULK--YOU'RE STILL ONLY ONE GUY! WHAT CAN YOU DO AGAINST A WHOLE ARMY??
SHUT UP, YOU PUNY FOOL! STAY OUTTA MY HAIR WHILE I LOOK FOR SOMETHIN'!
HERE IT IS! THIS BOOK'LL HELP ME DEMOLISH THAT CREEP AND HIS WHOLE CRUMMY RAT PACK! NOW CALL THE AIRPORT AND RESERVE A COUPLE OF SEATS HEADED EAST! MOVE!
HE-HE MUST BE CRACKIN' UP! BUT I GOTTA STRING ALONG WITH 'IM!
STRANGE MYTHS and LEGENDS
5

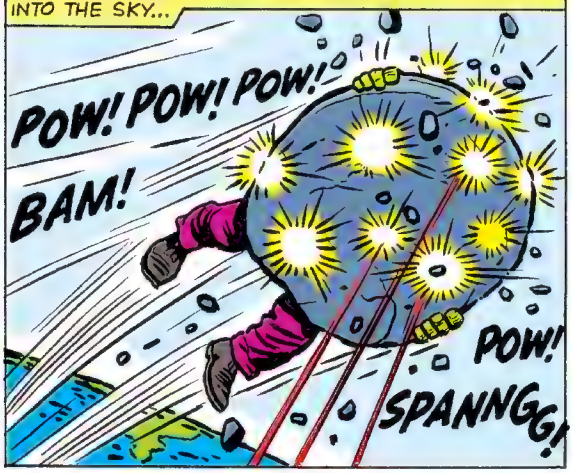

NOT LONG AFTERWARDS, ON A FLIGHT HEADED FOR THE ORIENT...
JET PLANES--BIG DEAL! I'LL BET I CAN LEAP FASTER THAN THIS TUB CAN FLY!
CARE FOR SOME REFRESHMENTS, GENTLEMEN?
"GENTLEMEN"? HUH! IT'S A GOOD THING SHE CAN'T RECOGNIZE WHO'S SITTIN' NEXT TO ME!
SUDDENLY, HITTING AN AIR POCKET, THE BIG PLANE LURCHES, AND...
HEY! WATCH OUT WITH THAT HOT COFFEE, YA LAMEBRAIN!
EEEK! IT--IT'S THE HULK!!
SECONDS LATER, BEFORE ANY OF THE STARTLED PASSENGERS OR CREW CAN MOVE A MUSCLE, THE EMERGENCY DOOR FLIES OPEN, AND...
HANG ON, SQUIRT! WE'RE CLOSE ENOUGH TO FORMOSA TO GET THERE FASTER MY WAY!
BY MEANS OF HIS INCREDIBLE MUSCLES, UNLIKE THOSE OF ANY OTHER LIVING BEING ON EARTH, THE HULK LANDS ON ONE TINY ISLE OFF FORMOSA, AND THEN, WITHOUT STOPPING, SPRINGS TO ANOTHER, THEN ANOTHER ISLE, UNTIL...
THIS IS IT--FORMOSA! I'LL STOP HERE TO GET MY BEARINGS AND THEN I'LL BE IN RED CHINA WITH MY NEXT LEAP! YOU STILL THERE, PEANUT?
ATTENTION, ALL UNITS! THE HULK APPROACHES --AS WE WERE WARNED!
ULP--YEAH! JUST BARELY!
DO NOT MOVE! YOU ARE OUR PRISONER!
YOU MEATHEAD! I'M ON YOUR SIDE!
I GOT NO TIME TO WASTE ON THESE FLEAS! I'LL BLOW 'EM CLEAR OUTTA MY WAY! LIKE THIS!
WHOOOSH!
6

BRINGING EVERY BIT OF ALMOST UNLIMITED STRENGTH WHICH HIS MASSIVE BODY POSSESSES INTO PLAY, THE HULK'S SUDDEN OUTPOURING OF BREATH IS LIKE THE BLAST OF A DOZEN WIND-TUNNELS, AND WHILE IT LASTS, NOTHING HUMAN CAN STAND IN ITS WAY!

YOU STUNNED 'EM FOR A SECOND, BUT THEY'RE REGROUPING! THEY'RE **ATTACKING** AGAIN!

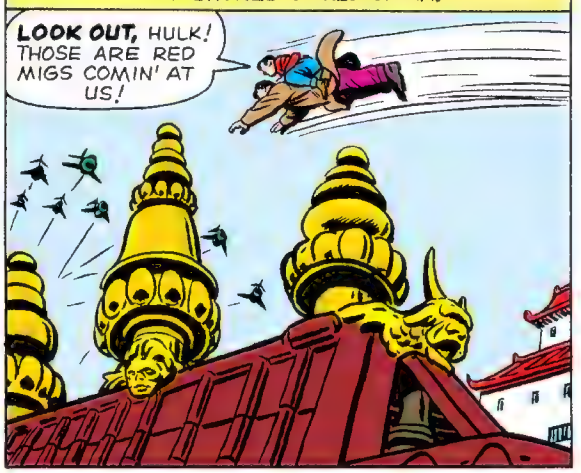
SHUDDUP, STUPID! I GOT EYES, AIN'T I?! WE'RE GETTIN' OUTTA HERE FAST, AND NO ONE'S GONNA STOP US!

USING A THICK SLAB OF ROCK WHICH HE HAD TORN FROM THE EARTH AS A SHIELD, THE MOST INCREDIBLE CREATURE OF OUR AGE AGAIN SPRINGS HIGH INTO THE SKY...



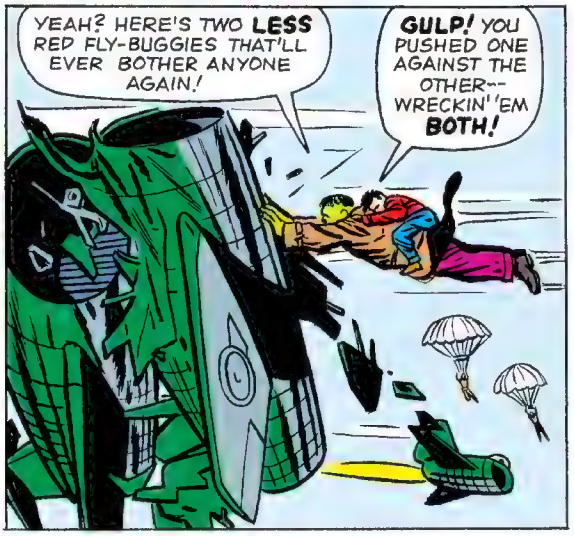
...LIKE AN AVENGING THUNDERBOLT, THE AWESOME FIGURE HURTLES THRU THE AIR UNTIL HE REACHES THE SHORES OF RED CHINA!

LOOK OUT, HULK! THOSE ARE RED MIGS COMIN' AT US!



YEAH? HERE'S TWO **LESS** RED FLY-BUGGIES THAT'LL EVER BOTHER ANYONE AGAIN!

GULP! YOU PUSHED ONE AGAINST THE OTHER--- WRECKIN' 'EM **BOTH!**

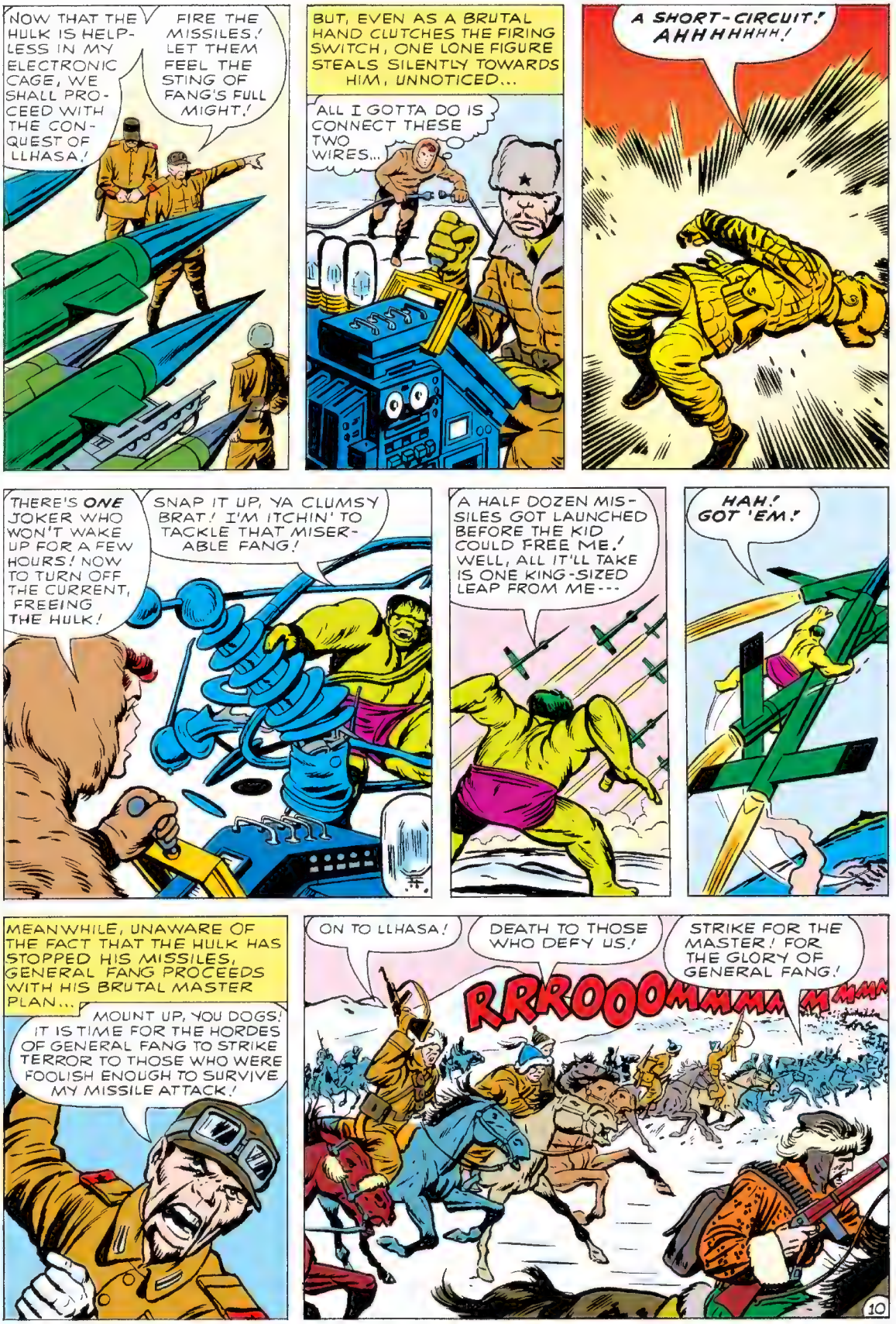


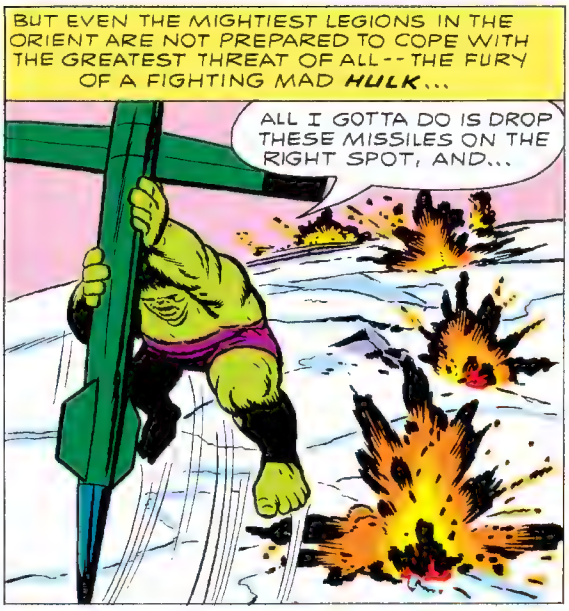
DIDJA SEE THE WAY THOSE OTHER CRUMBS TOOK OFF WHEN THEY SAW WHAT THEY WERE UP AGAINST?? **THAT'S** WHAT I'M GONNA DO TO THAT GENERAL FANG OF YOURS!

LET'S **HOPE** SO, HULK! BECAUSE IF YOU BIT OFF MORE THAN YOU CAN CHEW, WE'RE **BOTH** GONERS!

A SHORT TIME LATER, IN THE WILD MOUNTAINS BORDERING LLHASA, THE HULK DONS A STRANGE FURRY OUTFIT AS RICK GARBS HIMSELF IN AN INSULATED SUIT AS PROTECTION AGAINST THE BITTER COLD...
REMEMBER THAT BOOK OF LEGENDS I SHOWED YA? WELL, YOU'RE LOOKIN' AT A LIVIN' LEGEND NOW -- I'M GONNA BE-COME THE ONE THING THOSE GUYS ARE SCARED STIFF OF!
HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
EVER HEAR OF THE ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN,?? WELL, YOU'RE LOOKIN' AT 'IM! I'M GONNA--
CLAM UP! HERE COME FANG'S TANKS! WAIT'LL I GRAB ME A BIG TREE AND SLOW 'EM DOWN...
...LIKE THIS!
BEHOLD! IT-IT IS THE ABOMINABLE ONE! THE SNOWMAN!
THE ABOMINA-BLE SNOWMAN! FLEE! FLEE!
AS THE STUNNED TANK CREWS SCATTER IN FEAR, THE HULK SIGHTS AN ENEMY LISTENING POST, USING SENSITIVE ELEC-TRONIC EQUIPMENT! A SECOND LATER, AN EAR-SPLITTING ROAR FROM THE STRONGEST LUNGS ON EARTH PIERCES THE STILL MOUNTAIN AIR...
LISTENIN' FOR SOMETHIN'?? TRY THIS FOR SIZE!!!
THERE'S A FEW OF 'EM WHO I MISSED! BUT I DON'T WANT 'EM TO FEEL IGNORED...
THERE! I'LL GIVE 'EM A TASTE OF A SMALL EARTH-QUAKE! LOOK AT THE PUNY FLEAS JUMP!
BAM!
MINUTES LATER, AT A COM-PLETELY DEMORALIZED OUT-POST, A FRANTIC MESSAGE IS RELAYED TO GENERAL FANG...
IT IS TRUE, MASTER! WITH OUR OWN EYES WE HAVE SEEN HIM! IT IS THE ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN! HE HAS COME TO DESTROY US ALL!
8

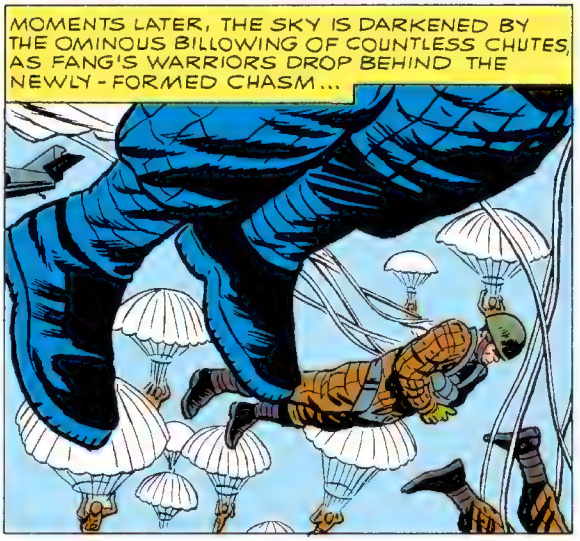
MOST MIGHTY GENERAL FANG--WE MUST TURN BACK! WE DARE NOT RISK THE WRATH OF THE ABOMINABLE SNOW--- URK!
SILENCE, DOG! THE GENERAL IS ABOUT TO SPEAK!
HE DARED TO ADVISE ME! TO THE FIRING SQUAD WITH HIM!
AS FOR THE ACCURSED SNOWMAN, I SHALL DEFEAT HIM AS EASILY AS I HAVE DEFEATED ALL OTHERS!
PREPARE MY SPECIAL PROJECTORS, AND THE SOUND EQUIPMENT! FASTER, YOU SWINE, OR YOU SHALL FEEL MY WRATH!
A SHORT TIME LATER...
I GUESS I SCARED 'EM ALL OFF BY NOW! IT'LL BE A PLEASURE TO GET OUTTA THIS MONKEY SUIT--I'M ROASTIN' HERE!
ROASTING???
IT'S BELOW FREEZING IN THESE--HULK! LOOK--OVER THERE!
IT-IT ISN'T POSSIBLE! BUT IT LOOKS LIKE A LIVIN' DRAGON!
GET OUTTA MY WAY, STUPID! I'LL FIND OUT IF IT'S POSSIBLE OR NOT!
RROOAARRR
HOLY COW! HE JUMPED RIGHT THRU IT!
BAH! IT'S JUST SOME PHONY KINDA 3-D PICTURE! SOME CORNBALL MUST BE PROJECTIN' IT FROM SOMEWHERE!
AND JUST WHEN I WAS LOOKIN' FORWARD TO A REAL FIGHT!
BUT, AS THE HULK LANDS ON THE GROUND, HE FINDS HIMSELF INSIDE A STRANGE, ELECTRONICALLY-CHARGED CAGE!
IT WORKED! HE FELL INTO GENERAL FANG'S TRAP!
BUT SEE--IT IS NOT THE ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN!
YOU CRUMBS! WHEN I'M THRU WITH YA, YOU'LL WISH I WAS THAT SNOWMAN! I'LL--OWW!
THAT'S IT! PUT THE ELECTRONIC BARS AGAINST THE CAGE! THE CURRENT WILL KEEP HIM CAPTIVE!
AHHH, SO THIS IS WHAT FANG HAS CAUGHT! THE ONE KNOWN TO THE WEST AS THE HULK! AFTER I HAVE LEVELLED LLHASA, I SHALL PERSONALLY SUPERVISE YOUR DEATH, YOU BRAINLESS GARGOYLE!
9


NOW THAT THE HULK IS HELPLESS IN MY ELECTRONIC CAGE, WE SHALL PROCEED WITH THE CONQUEST OF LLHASA!
FIRE THE MISSILES! LET THEM FEEL THE STING OF FANG'S FULL MIGHT!
BUT, EVEN AS A BRUTAL HAND CLUTCHES THE FIRING SWITCH, ONE LONE FIGURE STEALS SILENTLY TOWARDS HIM, UNNOTICED...
ALL I GOTTA DO IS CONNECT THESE TWO WIRES...
A SHORT-CIRCUIT! AHHHHHHH!
THERE'S ONE JOKER WHO WON'T WAKE UP FOR A FEW HOURS! NOW TO TURN OFF THE CURRENT, FREEING THE HULK!
SNAP IT UP, YA CLUMSY BRAT! I'M ITCHIN' TO TACKLE THAT MISERABLE FANG!
A HALF DOZEN MISSILES GOT LAUNCHED BEFORE THE KID COULD FREE ME! WELL, ALL IT'LL TAKE IS ONE KING-SIZED LEAP FROM ME---
HAH! GOT 'EM!
MEANWHILE, UNAWARE OF THE FACT THAT THE HULK HAS STOPPED HIS MISSILES, GENERAL FANG PROCEEDS WITH HIS BRUTAL MASTER PLAN...
MOUNT UP, YOU DOGS! IT IS TIME FOR THE HORDES OF GENERAL FANG TO STRIKE TERROR TO THOSE WHO WERE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO SURVIVE MY MISSILE ATTACK!
ON TO LLHASA!
DEATH TO THOSE WHO DEFY US!
STRIKE FOR THE MASTER! FOR THE GLORY OF GENERAL FANG!
RRROOOMMMMM
10

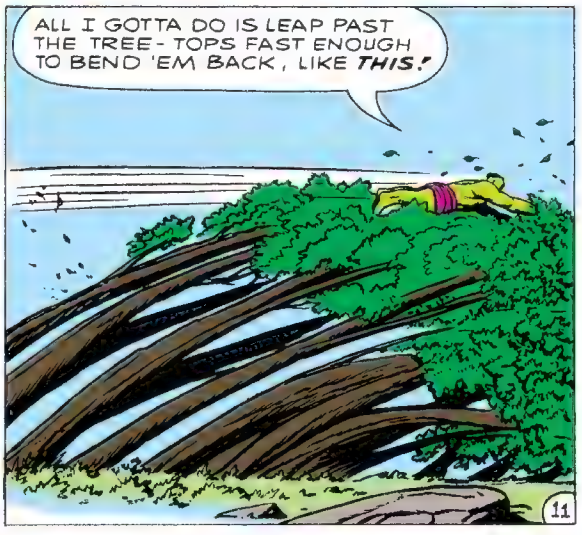

BUT EVEN THE MIGHTIEST LEGIONS IN THE ORIENT ARE NOT PREPARED TO COPE WITH THE GREATEST THREAT OF ALL -- THE FURY OF A FIGHTING MAD HULK...
ALL I GOTTA DO IS DROP THESE MISSILES ON THE RIGHT SPOT, AND...

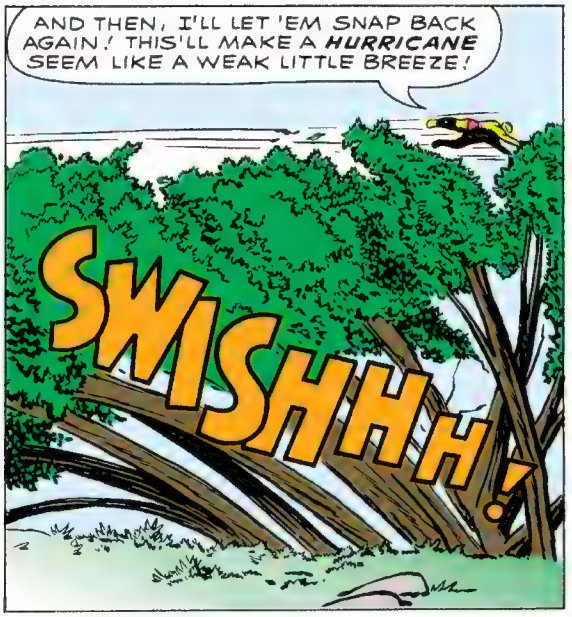
...NOW LET'S SEE THOSE TOY SOLDIERS GET ACROSS THAT CHASM!

BUT, IN GENERAL FANG, THE HULK HAS AN EQUALLY DETERMINED AND DANGEROUS ENEMY...
THE GARGOYLE STILL LIVES! BUT HE SHALL NOT STOP ME!
WHERE MY CAVALRY CAN-NOT RIDE, MY PARATROOPS SHALL FLY! GIVE THE COMMAND!

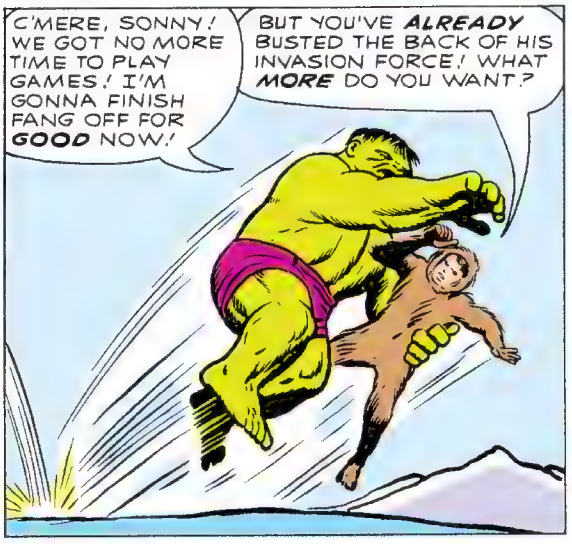

MOMENTS LATER, THE SKY IS DARKENED BY THE OMINOUS BILLOWING OF COUNTLESS CHUTES, AS FANG'S WARRIORS DROP BEHIND THE NEWLY-FORMED CHASM...

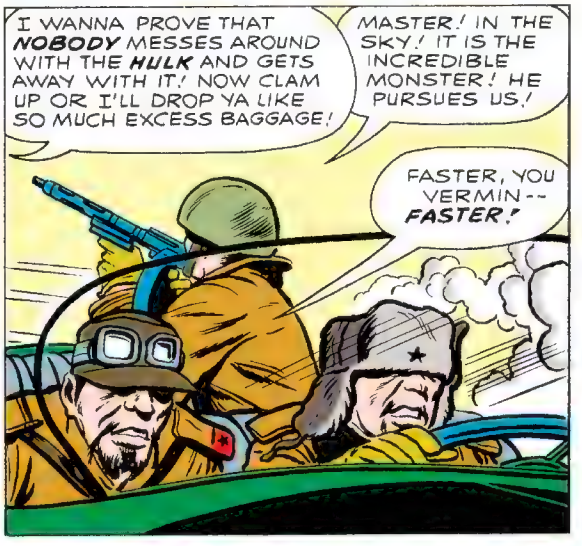
BUT FANG AND HIS MINIONS ARE MERELY MORTALS -- AND THEY ARE RECKONING WITH THE MOST FEARSOME LIVING CREATURE OF ALL TIME -- THE INCREDIBLE HULK!
PARATROOPS! STAY BACK, KIDDO! I'M GONNA GIVE THOSE LAMEBRAINS A TASTE OF SOME-THING THEY'LL NEVER FORGET!


ALL I GOTTA DO IS LEAP PAST THE TREE-TOPS FAST ENOUGH TO BEND 'EM BACK, LIKE THIS!


AND THEN, I'LL LET 'EM SNAP BACK AGAIN! THIS'LL MAKE A HURRICANE SEEM LIKE A WEAK LITTLE BREEZE!
SWISHHH!

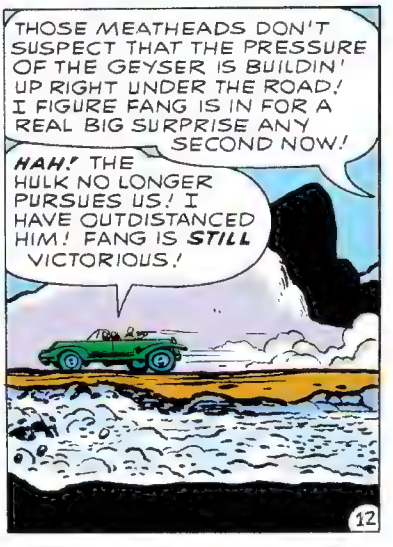
AND THE HULK'S PLAN WORKS! UNDER THE DRIVING FORCE OF THE ARTIFICIALLY CREATED GALE, THE PARACHUTES HURL THEIR WEARERS ABOUT LIKE STRAWS, CAUSING THEM TO FALL BACK IN DIZZY CONFUSION...


C'MERE, SONNY! WE GOT NO MORE TIME TO PLAY GAMES! I'M GONNA FINISH FANG OFF FOR GOOD NOW!
BUT YOU'VE ALREADY BUSTED THE BACK OF HIS INVASION FORCE! WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT?

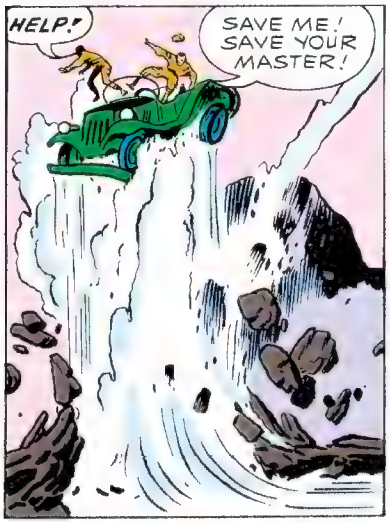

I WANNA PROVE THAT NOBODY MESSES AROUND WITH THE HULK AND GETS AWAY WITH IT! NOW CLAM UP OR I'LL DROP YA LIKE SO MUCH EXCESS BAGGAGE!
MASTER! IN THE SKY! IT IS THE INCREDIBLE MONSTER! HE PURSUES US!
FASTER, YOU VERMIN-- FASTER!

BUT SUDDENLY, THE HULK LANDS BEHIND GENERAL FANG, AND...
I JUST NOTICED THIS HERE GEYSER! WHY SHOULD I KNOCK MYSELF OUT CHASIN' THAT RAT WHEN I CAN CATCH HIM AN EASIER WAY?! I'LL JUST LIFT THIS OVERSIZED PEBBLE...

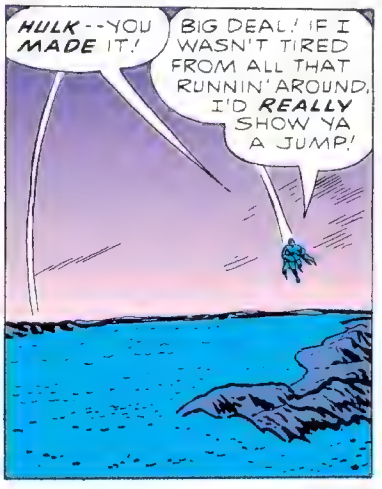
...AND PUT IT OVER THE GEYSER, LIKE A CORK! NOW WE'LL SETTLE BACK AND WATCH THE FIREWORKS!


THOSE MEATHEADS DON'T SUSPECT THAT THE PRESSURE OF THE GEYSER IS BUILDIN' UP RIGHT UNDER THE ROAD! I FIGURE FANG IS IN FOR A REAL BIG SURPRISE ANY SECOND NOW!
HAH! THE HULK NO LONGER PURSUES US! I HAVE OUTDISTANCED HIM! FANG IS STILL VICTORIOUS!

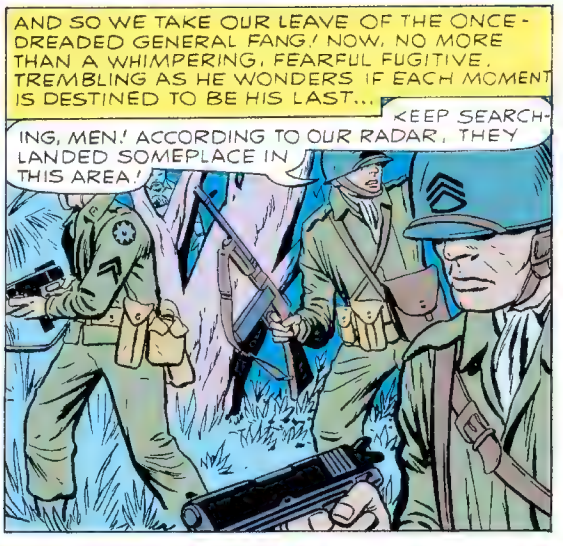
BUT, BEFORE THE ECHO OF FANG'S BOASTFUL WORDS CAN PASS AWAY, THE VERY EARTH BENEATH HIS CAR ERUPTS IN CYCLONIC FURY...

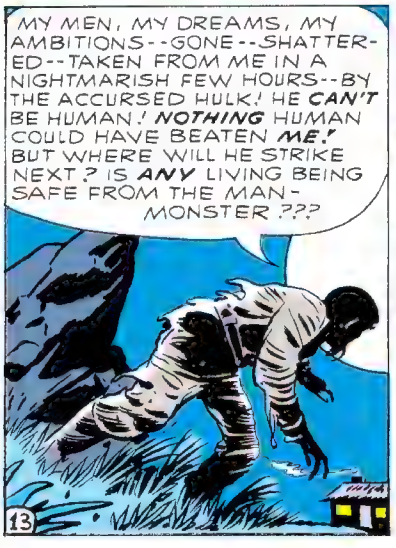


THEN, IN ONE OF HIS MIGHTIEST LEAPS, WITH BOTH RICK JONES AND THE EVIL FANG IN HIS ARMS THE INCREDIBLE HULK SPRINGS CLEAR ACROSS THE CHINA SEA TO THE COAST OF FORMOSA ...



WAIT! COME BACK! YOU-YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME HERE! NOT HERE--UNPROTECTED--IN THE MIDST OF MY MOST DEADLY ENEMIES!
YOU YELLA PIPSQUEAK, YOU AINT IMPORTANT ENOUGH FOR ME TO FINISH OFF! SO I'LL LET YA WORRY A WHILE UNTIL THEY CATCH YA AND PUT AN END TO YOUR MISERY!
HANG ON, PEST! I'M GONNA HEAD FOR THE FIRST SHIP GOIN' WEST!


AND SO WE TAKE OUR LEAVE OF THE ONCE-DREADED GENERAL FANG! NOW, NO MORE THAN A WHIMPERING, FEARFUL FUGITIVE, TREMBLING AS HE WONDERS IF EACH MOMENT IS DESTINED TO BE HIS LAST...
KEEP SEARCHING, MEN! ACCORDING TO OUR RADAR, THEY LANDED SOMEPLACE IN THIS AREA!


MY MEN, MY DREAMS, MY AMBITIONS--GONE--SHATTERED--TAKEN FROM ME IN A NIGHTMARISH FEW HOURS--BY THE ACCURSED HULK! HE CAN'T BE HUMAN! NOTHING HUMAN COULD HAVE BEATEN ME! BUT WHERE WILL HE STRIKE NEXT? IS ANY LIVING BEING SAFE FROM THE MAN-MONSTER ???

"IS ANY HUMAN BEING SAFE" INDEED! WHO CAN SAY WHERE THE HULK WILL STRIKE AGAIN? OR AGAINST WHOM? THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY, DAYS LATER...
WHEW! SAFE AT LAST!
DON'T KID YOURSELF! NOBODY'S SAFE!

WHA-WHAT DO YOU MEAN, HULK?
I MEAN THAT YOU, AND THE REST OF THE WEAKLING HUMAN RACE, WILL BE SAFE WHEN THERE AIN'T NO MORE HULK--AND I'M PLANNIN' ON BEIN' AROUND FOR A LONG, LONG TIME!!!
THE END

CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE

IND.
12¢
THE INCREDIBLE
HULK
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MC
6
MAR.
EVEN YOUR LIMITLESS STRENGTH CANNOT SAVE YOU FROM ME, HULK! ALL THE METAL ON EARTH IS MINE TO COMMAND, FOR I AM--
"THE METAL MASTER!"
IF THE HULK CAN'T HANDLE THE METAL MASTER, IT COULD MEAN THE END OF THE HUMAN RACE!
A FULL-LENGTH EPIC SUPER-THRILLER!
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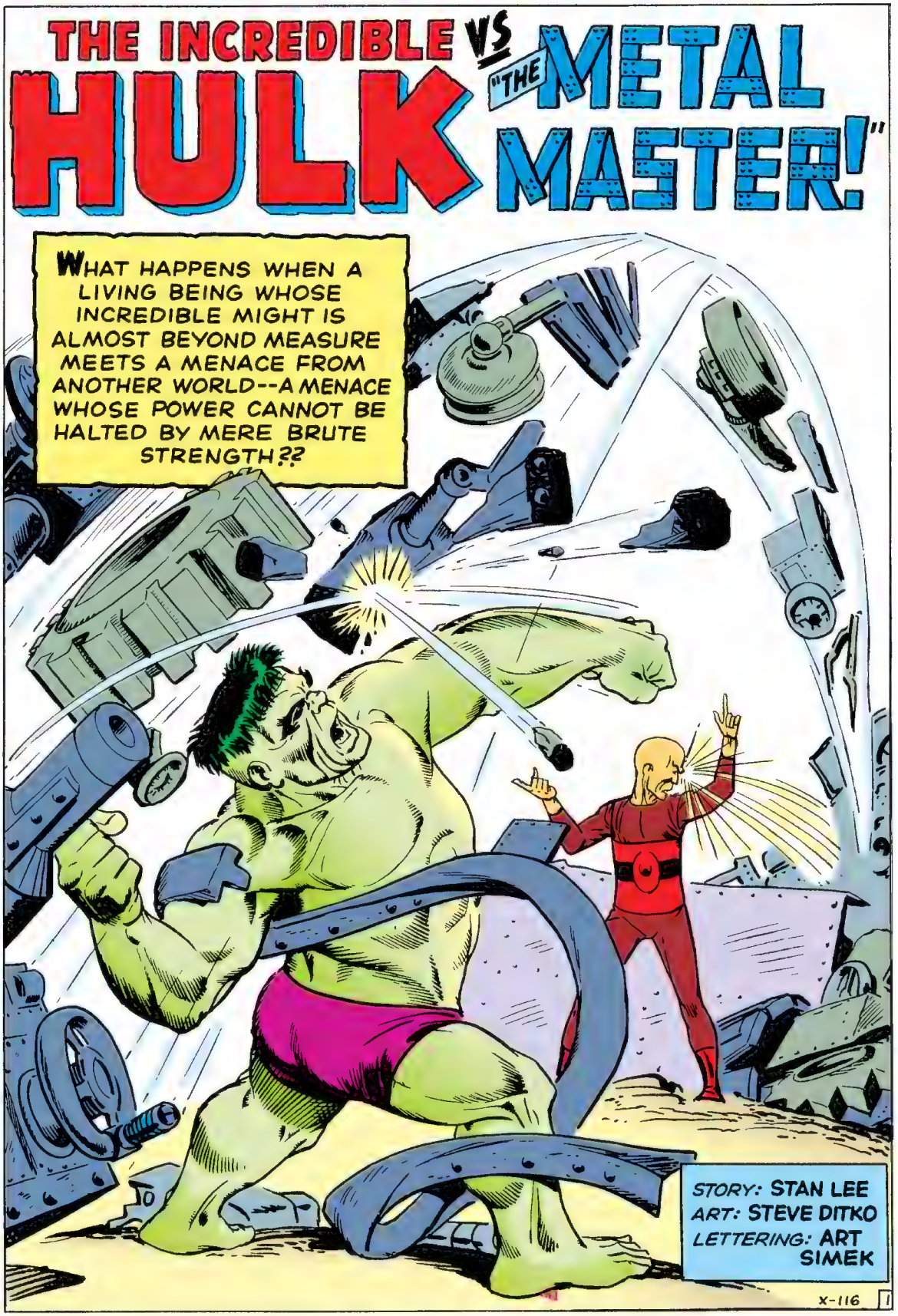
THE INCREDIBLE HULK VS "THE METAL MASTER!"
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A LIVING BEING WHOSE INCREDIBLE MIGHT IS ALMOST BEYOND MEASURE MEETS A MENACE FROM ANOTHER WORLD--A MENACE WHOSE POWER CANNOT BE HALTED BY MERE BRUTE STRENGTH??
STORY: STAN LEE
ART: STEVE DITKO
LETTERING: ART SIMEK
X-116
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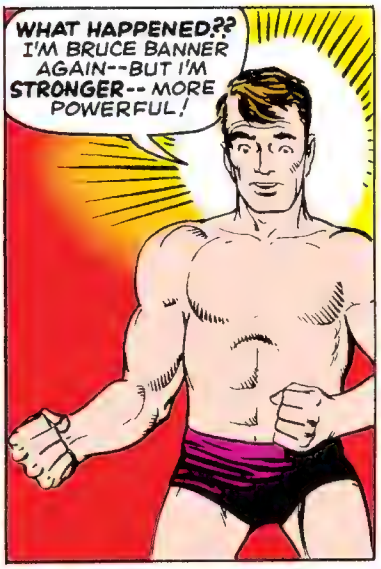
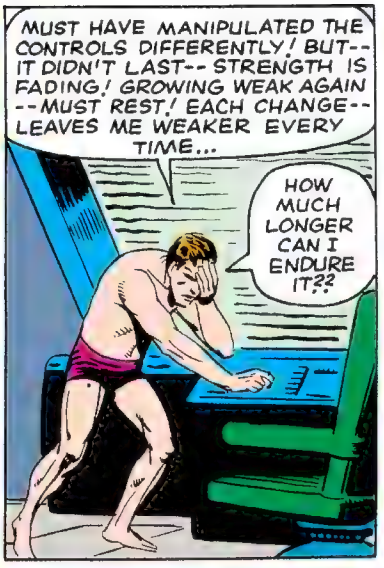
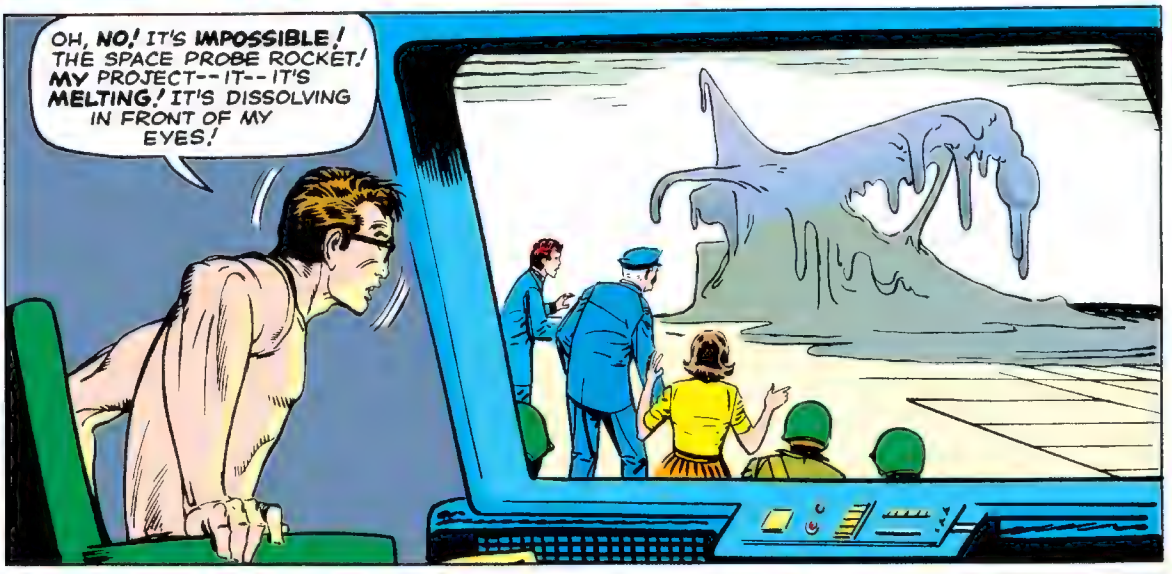
AT A MILITARY MISSILE BASE SOMEWHERE IN THE GREAT SOUTHWEST, THE COUNTDOWN IS HALTED WHILE THE BASE COMMANDER WAITS FOR DR. BRUCE BANNER TO APPEAR!
LAUNCH MINUS FIFTEEN MINUTES --AND HOLDING!
WE CAN'T START WITHOUT BANNER! HE'S THE BRAINS BEHIND THIS ENTIRE SPACE PROBE! WHERE IN THUNDER-ATION IS HE?
GENERAL "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS, NEVER A MAN TO MINCE WORDS, EXPRESSES HIS FEELINGS IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS...
LUCKY FOR HIM HE'S A CIVILIAN! IF HE WERE IN MY DIVISION, I'D HAVE HIS HIDE! I'D SLAP HIM BEHIND BARS! I'D--I'D--
OH, DAD, WHAT IF SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO BRUCE?
STRANGE-- HE'S HAD PLENTY OF TIME TO CHANGE BACK FROM THE HULK AND REACH HERE BY NOW!
THE HULK HAS BEEN SEEN IN THIS AREA! WHAT IF-- HE GOT BRUCE?!!
IF ONLY I COULD TELL HER THAT BRUCE BANNER IS THE HULK--BUT I WOULDN'T DARE! HE'D SKIN ME ALIVE!
AT THAT MOMENT, NOT FAR AWAY, THE OBJECT OF EVERY-ONE'S CONCERN CROUCHES ANGRILY BEHIND A BOULDER UNDER THE BLAZING DESERT SUN...
I GOTTA CHANGE BACK TO BRUCE BANNER...
...BUT I CAN'T!
A WHOLE BLASTED INFANTRY REGIMENT ...ON MANEUVERS BETWEEN ME AND MY UNDERGROUND LAB!
I CAN'T REACH THE CAVE WITHOUT THEM SEEIN' ME, AND DIS-COVERING MY SECRET HIDING PLACE!
BUT I CAN'T STAY HERE ANY LONGER! IF I DON'T CHANGE BACK TO BANNER SOON-- IT MAY BE TOO LATE!
THE LONGER I REMAIN THE THE HULK, THE HARDER IT IS TO CHANGE BACK!
I GOTTA TAKE A CHANCE!
MAYBE I CAN LEAP TOWARD THE HIDDEN CAVE, FAST ENOUGH AND LOW ENOUGH, AND MAKE IT BEFORE THEIR RADAR SPOTS ME!
2

BLAST IT! IT'S NO GOOD! TOO MANY JETS! I ALMOST CRASHED INTO 'EM!
THEY'RE COMIN' THIS WAY! I CAN'T STAY HERE!
BUT THERE'S NO PLACE TO HIDE!
THEY GOTTA STAY BACK! WHY DON'T THEY KEEP AWAY?? I DON'T WANNA HURT ANYONE! BUT IF THEY COME ANY CLOSER --IF THEY ATTACK ME--IT'LL BE TOO BAD!
BUT, AT THAT CRUCIAL SPLIT-SECOND, JUST BEFORE THE TROOPS CONFRONT THE DESPERATE HULK, AN EAR-SPLITTING WHINE FILLS THE HOT DESERT AIR...
WHEEEOOOOOOOOOOO!
IT MEANS BACK TO THE BASE--ON THE DOUBLE!
IT'S THE EMERGENCY ALERT!
CONDITION RED!
WITHIN MINUTES, THE LAST DULL RUMBLE OF TANKS FADES INTO THE DISTANCE, AND A BEWILDERED HULK SAFELY ENTERS THE DANK CAVE WHICH LEADS TO HIS HIDDEN LAIR!
LUCKY FOR THEM THE ALARM SOUNDED! NOW I WON'T HAVETA BASH ANY HEADS TOGETHER!
MINUTES LATER, A GIANT FORM STANDS IN FRONT OF ONE OF EARTH'S MOST AWE-SOME RAY MACHINES...
I HATE HAVIN' TO BECOME THAT WEAKLING BANNER ALL THE TIME!
ARGHH!
-GASP- EACH TIME I MAKE THE CHANGE-- IT SEEMS MORE PAINFUL!
3

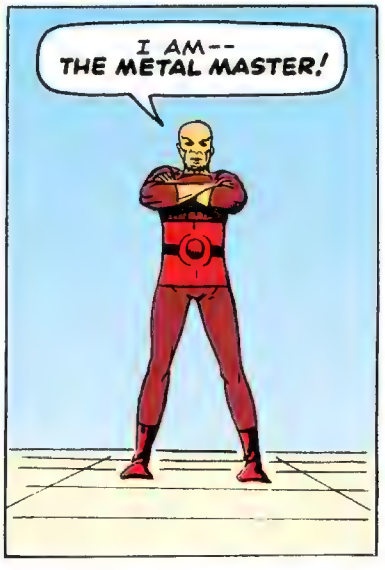

WHAT HAPPENED?? I'M BRUCE BANNER AGAIN--BUT I'M STRONGER-- MORE POWERFUL!


MUST HAVE MANIPULATED THE CONTROLS DIFFERENTLY! BUT-- IT DIDN'T LAST-- STRENGTH IS FADING! GROWING WEAK AGAIN --MUST REST! EACH CHANGE-- LEAVES ME WEAKER EVERY TIME...
HOW MUCH LONGER CAN I ENDURE IT??

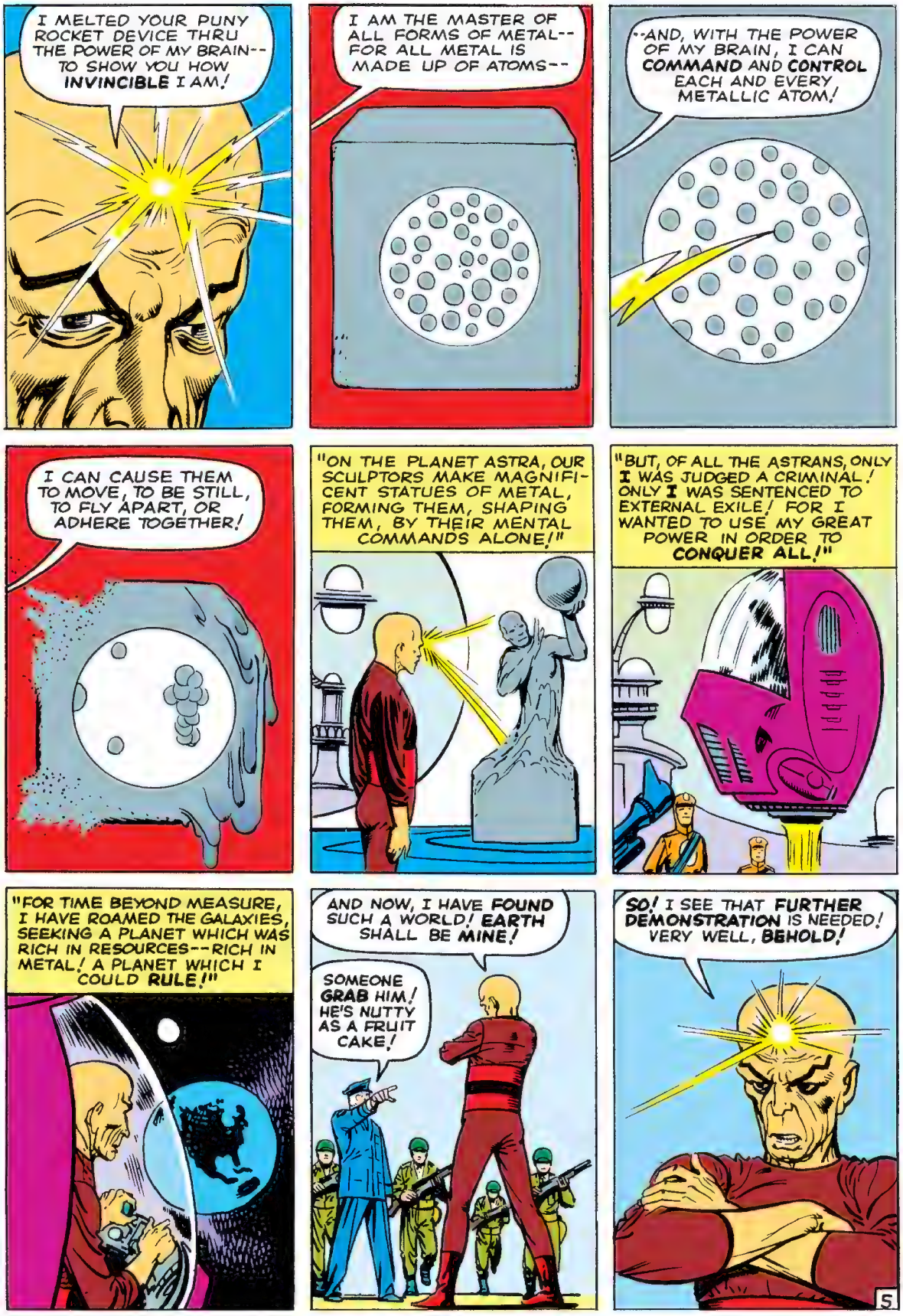
SLUMPING IN FRONT OF HIS ELECTRONIC TV VIEWER, THE ANGUISHED SCIENTIST SWITCHES THE SET ON, AND...
SOMETHING'S WRONG AT THE BASE! GENERAL ROSS-- BETTY-- THEY LOOK TERRIFIED!

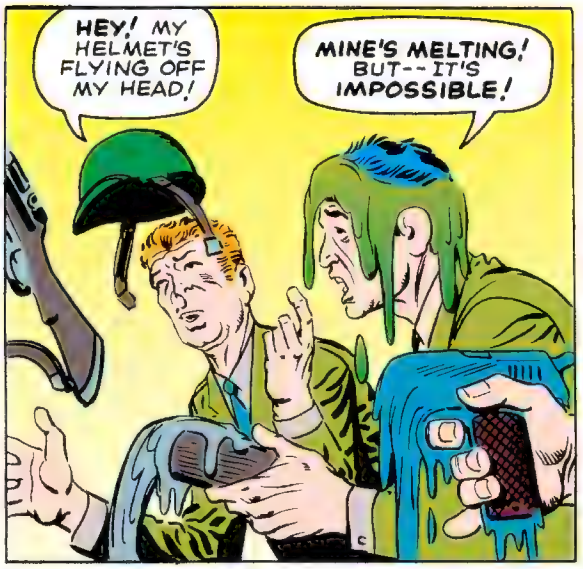

OH, NO! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! THE SPACE PROBE ROCKET! MY PROJECT-- IT-- IT'S MELTING! IT'S DISSOLVING IN FRONT OF MY EYES!

BEWILDERED, THE TREMBLING VIEWER SWITCHES ON THE SOUND PORTION OF HIS AMAZING SET, AND HEARS...
WHO'S THAT??!
WHERE'D HE COME FROM?


I AM-- THE METAL MASTER!

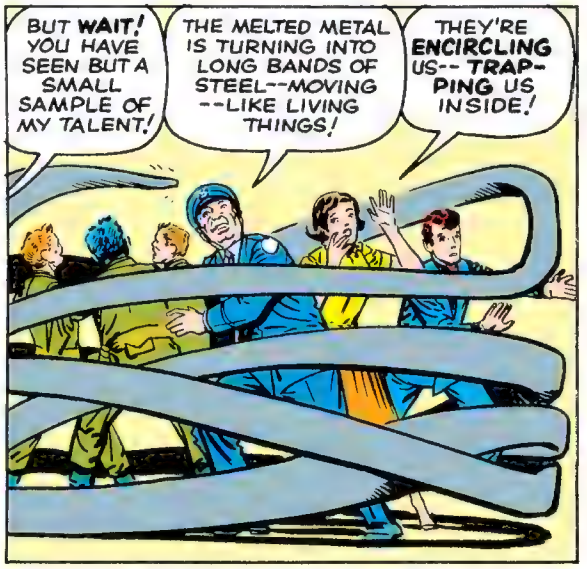
I COME FROM THE PLANET ASTRA, MANY GALAXIES AWAY!
4


I MELTED YOUR PUNY ROCKET DEVICE THRU THE POWER OF MY BRAIN-- TO SHOW YOU HOW **INVINCIBLE** I AM!
I AM THE MASTER OF ALL FORMS OF METAL-- FOR ALL METAL IS MADE UP OF ATOMS--
--AND, WITH THE POWER OF MY BRAIN, I CAN **COMMAND** AND **CONTROL** EACH AND EVERY METALLIC ATOM!
I CAN CAUSE THEM TO MOVE, TO BE STILL, TO FLY APART, OR ADHERE TOGETHER!
"ON THE PLANET ASTRA, OUR SCULPTORS MAKE MAGNIFICENT STATUES OF METAL, FORMING THEM, SHAPING THEM, BY THEIR MENTAL COMMANDS ALONE!"
"BUT, OF ALL THE ASTRANS, ONLY **I** WAS JUDGED A CRIMINAL! ONLY **I** WAS SENTENCED TO EXTERNAL EXILE! FOR I WANTED TO USE MY GREAT POWER IN ORDER TO **CONQUER ALL!**"
"FOR TIME BEYOND MEASURE, I HAVE ROAMED THE GALAXIES, SEEKING A PLANET WHICH WAS RICH IN RESOURCES--RICH IN METAL! A PLANET WHICH I COULD **RULE!**"
AND NOW, I HAVE **FOUND** SUCH A WORLD! **EARTH** SHALL BE **MINE!**
SOMEONE **GRAB** HIM! HE'S NUTTY AS A FRUIT CAKE!
SO! I SEE THAT **FURTHER DEMONSTRATION** IS NEEDED! VERY WELL, **BEHOLD!**
5

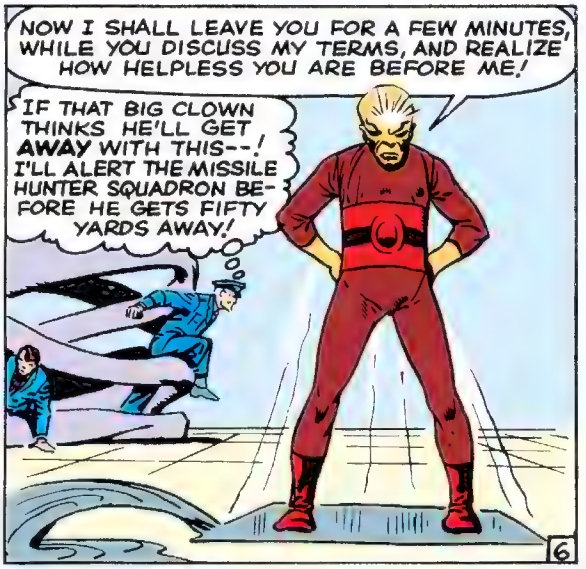

HEY! MY HELMET'S FLYING OFF MY HEAD!
MINE'S MELTING! BUT-- IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

AND NOW, IF YOU FIND IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT I AM THE ONE WHO DESTROYED YOUR ROCKET DEVICE, SEE WHAT I SHALL DO TO THAT TANK!

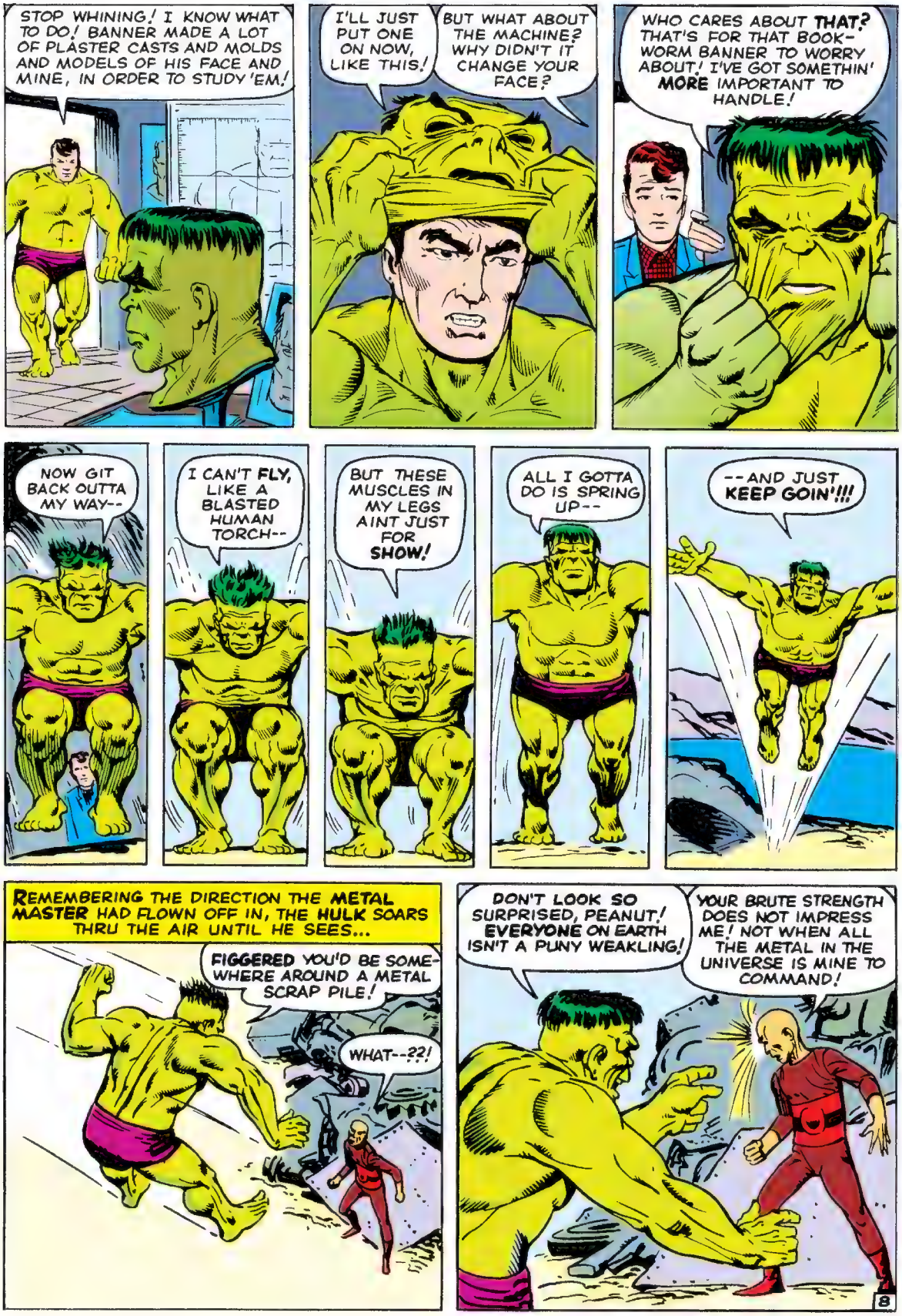
IT'S DWINDLING AWAY INTO --GASP-- NOTHING!
HE DIDN'T EVEN TOUCH IT! BUT-- THAT RAY--COMING FROM HIS HEAD--
IF WE'RE NOT DREAMIN', HE'S THE SINGLE MOST POWERFUL FORCE ON EARTH!

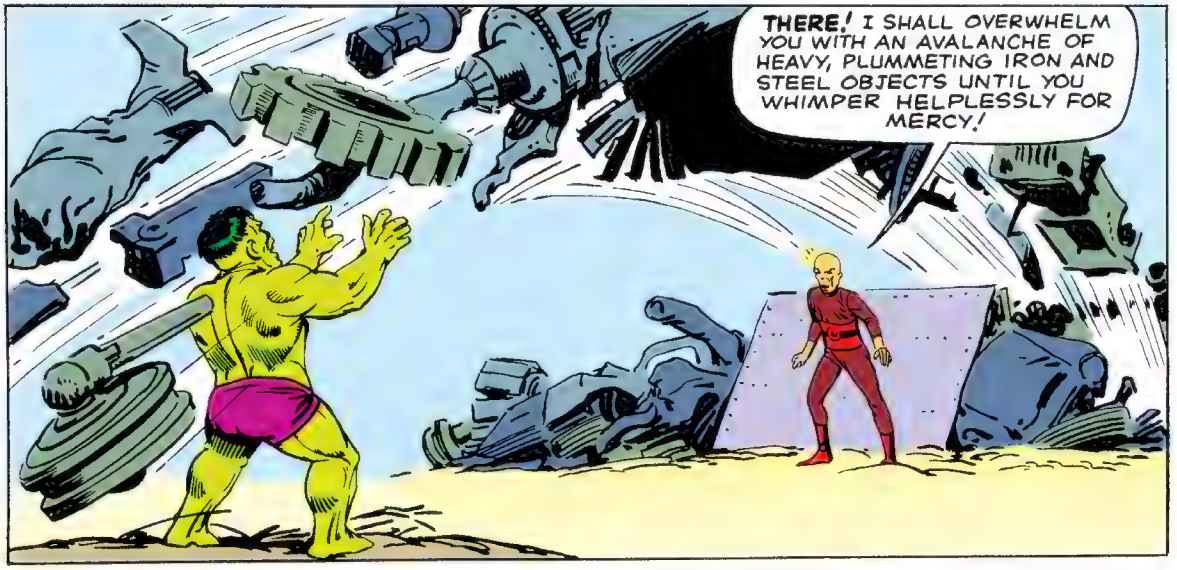

BUT WAIT! YOU HAVE SEEN BUT A SMALL SAMPLE OF MY TALENT!
THE MELTED METAL IS TURNING INTO LONG BANDS OF STEEL--MOVING --LIKE LIVING THINGS!
THEY'RE ENCIRCLING US-- TRAPPING US INSIDE!

AND NOW, HEAR MY ULTIMATUM, FOR I BEGIN TO TIRE OF THESE CHILDISH FEATS! YOU WILL SURRENDER THIS ENTIRE BASE TO ME IMMEDIATELY, AND THE PLANET EARTH ITSELF MUST ACCEPT ME AS SUPREME RULER WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS!

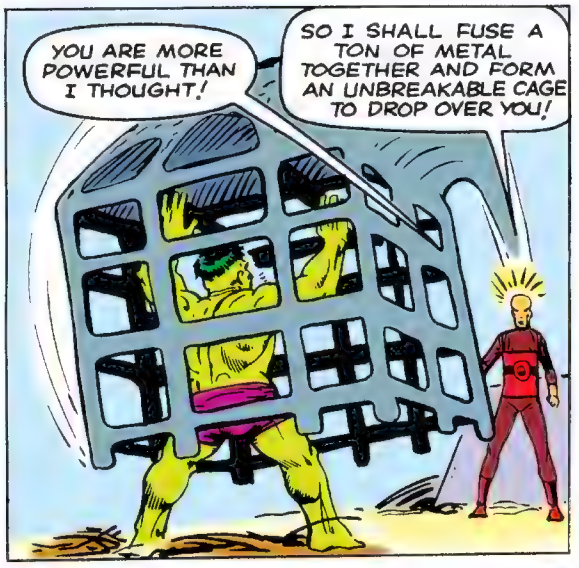

NOW I SHALL LEAVE YOU FOR A FEW MINUTES, WHILE YOU DISCUSS MY TERMS, AND REALIZE HOW HELPLESS YOU ARE BEFORE ME!
IF THAT BIG CLOWN THINKS HE'LL GET AWAY WITH THIS--! I'LL ALERT THE MISSILE HUNTER SQUADRON BEFORE HE GETS FIFTY YARDS AWAY!

LOOK! HE TURNED THAT PIECE OF STEEL PLATFORM INTO A-A METAL FLYING CARPET!
BAH! THOSE PARLOR TRICKS DON'T IMPRESS THUNDERBOLT ROSS!
THERE GO MY HUNTER ROCKETS! THEY'LL BRING HIM DOWN NO MATTER WHAT POWERS HE CLAIMS HE HAS!
AND STILL THEY DO NOT BELIEVE!
DISINTEGRATE!
I'LL DIRECT THE REMAINING ROCKET TO RETURN TO THE BASE!
TAKE COVER!
THE ROCKET BACK-TRACKED IN MID-AIR! THAT GUY REALLY IS UNBEATABLE!
THERE'S A CHANCE--JUST ONE SLIM CHANCE--THAT THERE IS SOMEONE WHO CAN STOP THE METAL MASTER!
IF I CAN JUST GET TO THE HULK IN TIME!
BREATHLESS FROM HIS HEART-POUNDING RUN, RICK REACHES THE LAIR OF THE HULK, TO FIND...
STAY BACK! I KNOW ALL ABOUT IT-- SAW IT ON THE SCREEN! I'M CHANGING!
THERE! NOW THE HULK WILL --WHAT ARE YOU STARIN' AT, BRAT??
YOUR FACE!! YOUR BODY IS THE HULK'S, BUT YOUR FACE--
SOMETHING WENT WRONG! I'VE GOT BANNER'S MILKSOP FACE!
YOU CAN'T GO OUT LIKE THAT! IT WOULD GIVE YOUR IDENTITY AWAY!


STOP WHINING! I KNOW WHAT TO DO! BANNER MADE A LOT OF PLASTER CASTS AND MOLDS AND MODELS OF HIS FACE AND MINE, IN ORDER TO STUDY 'EM!
I'LL JUST PUT ONE ON NOW, LIKE THIS!
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE MACHINE? WHY DIDN'T IT CHANGE YOUR FACE?
WHO CARES ABOUT THAT? THAT'S FOR THAT BOOK-WORM BANNER TO WORRY ABOUT! I'VE GOT SOMETHIN' MORE IMPORTANT TO HANDLE!
NOW GIT BACK OUTTA MY WAY--
I CAN'T FLY, LIKE A BLASTED HUMAN TORCH--
BUT THESE MUSCLES IN MY LEGS AINT JUST FOR SHOW!
ALL I GOTTA DO IS SPRING UP--
--AND JUST KEEP GOIN'!!!
REMEMBERING THE DIRECTION THE METAL MASTER HAD FLOWN OFF IN, THE HULK SOARS THRU THE AIR UNTIL HE SEES...
FIGGERED YOU'D BE SOMEWHERE AROUND A METAL SCRAP PILE!
WHAT--??!
DON'T LOOK SO SURPRISED, PEANUT! EVERYONE ON EARTH ISN'T A PUNY WEAKLING!
YOUR BRUTE STRENGTH DOES NOT IMPRESS ME! NOT WHEN ALL THE METAL IN THE UNIVERSE IS MINE TO COMMAND!
8

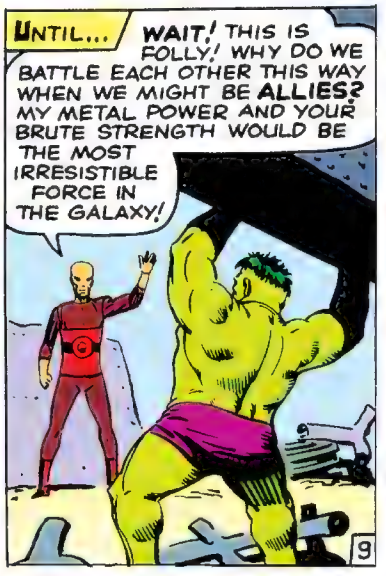

THERE! I SHALL OVERWHELM YOU WITH AN AVALANCHE OF HEAVY, PLUMMETING IRON AND STEEL OBJECTS UNTIL YOU WHIMPER HELPLESSLY FOR MERCY!

MISTER, THE HULK AINT THE WHIMPERIN' KIND!

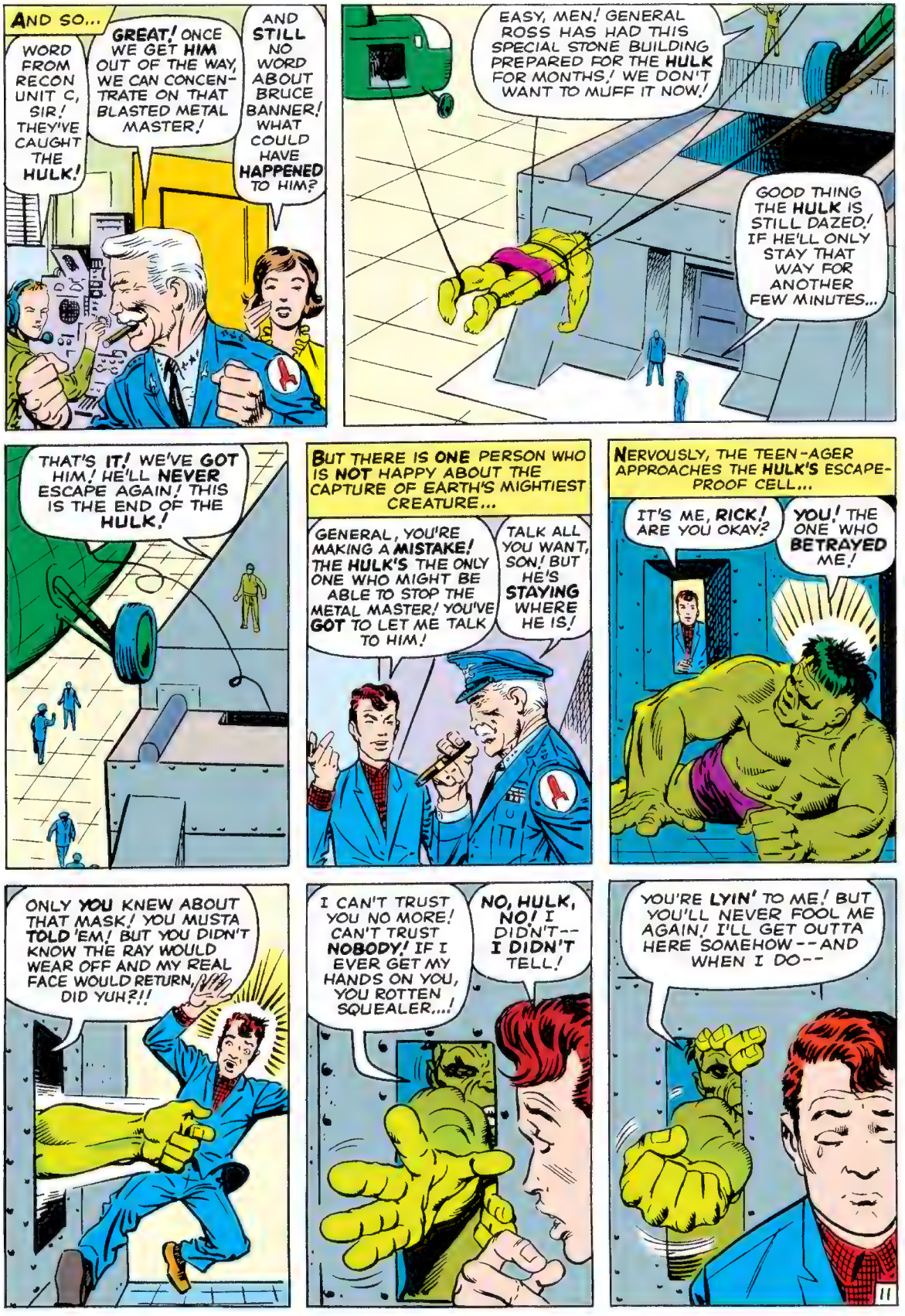

YOU ARE MORE POWERFUL THAN I THOUGHT!
SO I SHALL FUSE A TON OF METAL TOGETHER AND FORM AN UNBREAKABLE CAGE TO DROP OVER YOU!

YOU'RE OUTTA YOUR MIND! NOTHIN'S UNBREAKABLE TO THE HULK!

FOR LONG MINUTES THE UNCANNY BATTLE CONTINUES, AS THE METAL MASTER KEEPS THE RAMPAGING HULK AT BAY WITH A BARRAGE OF HEAVY FLYING OBJECTS, WEARING DOWN HIS MIGHTY FOE SLOWLY BUT SURELY...

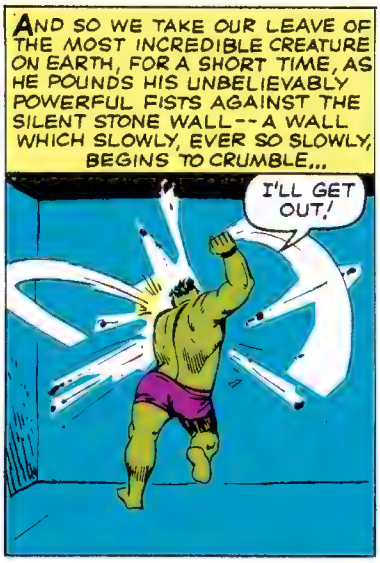

UNTIL...
WAIT! THIS IS FOLLY! WHY DO WE BATTLE EACH OTHER THIS WAY WHEN WE MIGHT BE ALLIES? MY METAL POWER AND YOUR BRUTE STRENGTH WOULD BE THE MOST IRRESISTIBLE FORCE IN THE GALAXY!

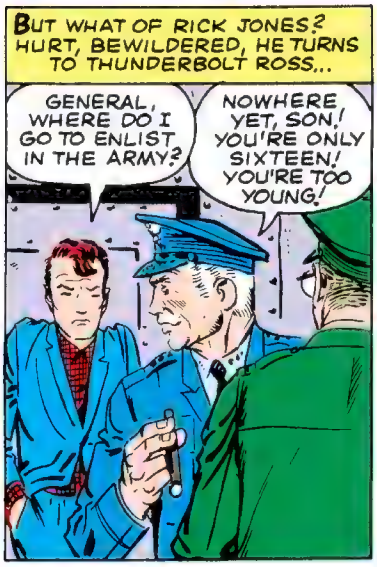
HUH? TEAM UP WITH YOU?! YOU'RE NUTS! I-- HEY, WHY NOT?
I DON'T OWE NOTHIN' TO THE HUMAN RACE! THEY BEEN HOUNDIN' ME, HUNTIN' ME! TREATIN' ME LIKE AN ANIMAL!
THIS WOULD BE MY CHANCE TO PAY 'EM ALL BACK! WE COULD--NAH! FORGET IT! I AINT BUYIN' IT! THE HULK NEEDS NOBODY! I CAN DO WHAT I GOTTA DO WITHOUT YOU--I'M THE HULK--DO YA HEAR--THE HULK!!!
BUT, AT THAT SPLIT-SECOND, WHILE HIS FOE'S GUARD IS DOWN, THE METAL MASTER STRIKES AGAIN, SWIFTLY--SURELY--AND...
SO BE IT, THEN!
UGH!
HE WAS RIGHT! WE DO NOT NEED EACH OTHER! FOR I AM THE STRONGER! I HAVE VANQUISHED HIM! NOW, ON ALL OF EARTH THERE ARE NONE WHO CAN DEFY ME! I AM SUPREME!
MINUTES LATER, A DETACHMENT OF RECON TROOPS STUMBLE ACROSS THE STUNNED FORM OF THE HULK...
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK! THE METAL MASTER MUST HAVE BEEN IN THE VICINITY! ONLY HE COULD HAVE BEATEN THE HULK!
HEY! WHAT GIVES? HE'S GOT SOME KINDA MASK ON!
AT THAT MOMENT, THE HULK BEGINS TO REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS...
LET'S SEE WHAT'S UNDERNEATH THIS THING...
WHA--? NO! NO!
GOT TO MOVE FAST, WHILE HE'S STILL WEAK AND DAZED! WHY WOULD THE HULK WEAR A MASK?? HAS HE ANOTHER IDENTITY??
IF THEY FIND OUT WHO I REALLY AM, IT'S THE END FOR ME!
BUT, WHEN THE MASK IS REMOVED...
THIS IS CRAZY! HE'S GOT THE SAME FACE UNDERNEATH!
BETTER TAKE HIM TO HQ! IT'S TOO MUCH FOR US!
10

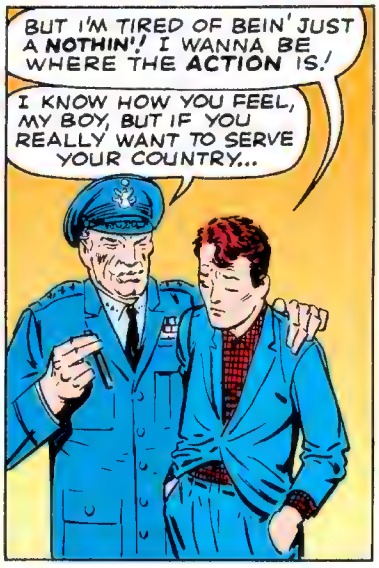

AND SO...
WORD FROM RECON UNIT C, SIR! THEY'VE CAUGHT THE HULK!
GREAT! ONCE WE GET HIM OUT OF THE WAY, WE CAN CONCENTRATE ON THAT BLASTED METAL MASTER!
AND STILL NO WORD ABOUT BRUCE BANNER! WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO HIM?
EASY, MEN! GENERAL ROSS HAS HAD THIS SPECIAL STONE BUILDING PREPARED FOR THE HULK FOR MONTHS! WE DON'T WANT TO MUFF IT NOW!
GOOD THING THE HULK IS STILL DAZED! IF HE'LL ONLY STAY THAT WAY FOR ANOTHER FEW MINUTES...
THAT'S IT! WE'VE GOT HIM! HE'LL NEVER ESCAPE AGAIN! THIS IS THE END OF THE HULK!
BUT THERE IS ONE PERSON WHO IS NOT HAPPY ABOUT THE CAPTURE OF EARTH'S MIGHTIEST CREATURE...
GENERAL, YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE! THE HULK'S THE ONLY ONE WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO STOP THE METAL MASTER! YOU'VE GOT TO LET ME TALK TO HIM!
TALK ALL YOU WANT, SON! BUT HE'S STAYING WHERE HE IS!
NERVOUSLY, THE TEEN-AGER APPROACHES THE HULK'S ESCAPE-PROOF CELL...
IT'S ME, RICK! ARE YOU OKAY?
YOU! THE ONE WHO BETRAYED ME!
ONLY YOU KNEW ABOUT THAT MASK! YOU MUSTA TOLD 'EM! BUT YOU DIDN'T KNOW THE RAY WOULD WEAR OFF AND MY REAL FACE WOULD RETURN, DID YUH?!!
I CAN'T TRUST YOU NO MORE! CAN'T TRUST NOBODY! IF I EVER GET MY HANDS ON YOU, YOU ROTTEN SQUEALER....!
NO, HULK, NO! I DIDN'T-- I DIDN'T TELL!
YOU'RE LYIN' TO ME! BUT YOU'LL NEVER FOOL ME AGAIN! I'LL GET OUTTA HERE SOMEHOW--AND WHEN I DO--
11

AND WHEN I DO--WHEN I BREAK OUTTA HERE-- I'LL HAVE MY REVENGE! ON **EVERYBODY!** DO YÁ **HEAR**-- ON **EVERYBODY!!**

AND I **WILL** GET OUT! I **WILL!**
NO MATTER **HOW** LONG IT TAKES--I'LL GET OUT!

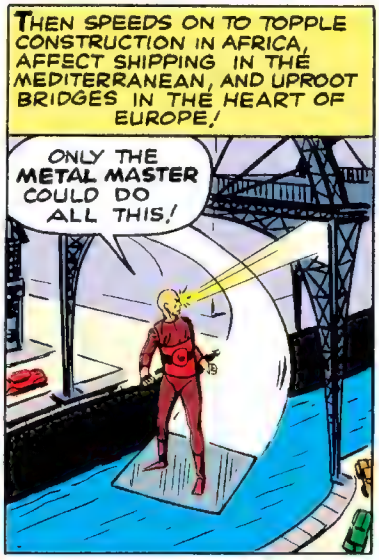

AND SO WE TAKE OUR LEAVE OF THE MOST INCREDIBLE CREATURE ON EARTH, FOR A SHORT TIME, AS HE POUNDS HIS UNBELIEVABLY POWERFUL FISTS AGAINST THE SILENT STONE WALL--A WALL WHICH SLOWLY, EVER SO SLOWLY, BEGINS TO CRUMBLE...
I'LL GET OUT!

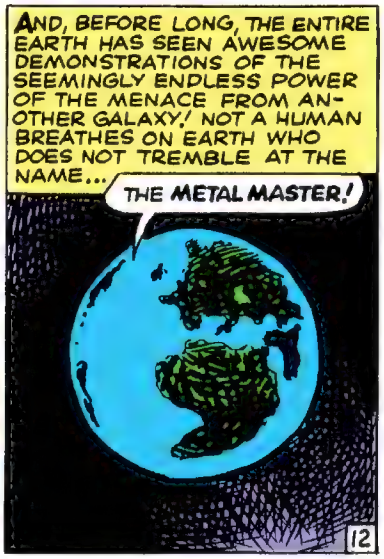

BUT WHAT OF RICK JONES? HURT, BEWILDERED, HE TURNS TO THUNDERBOLT ROSS...
GENERAL, WHERE DO I GO TO ENLIST IN THE ARMY?
NOWHERE YET, SON! YOU'RE ONLY SIXTEEN! YOU'RE TOO YOUNG!


BUT I'M TIRED OF BEIN' JUST A **NOTHIN'!** I WANNA BE WHERE THE **ACTION** IS!
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, MY BOY, BUT IF YOU REALLY WANT TO SERVE YOUR COUNTRY...

...THE BEST THING TO DO IS STAY IN SCHOOL! AMERICA NEEDS TRAINED MEN, IN EVERY FIELD--EVEN IN THE ARMY! AND **THEN,** WHEN YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH...
COOL IT, GENERAL! I GET THE MESSAGE!

AND SLOWLY, INEXORABLY, FATE DRAWS HER LITTLE WEB CLOSER AND CLOSER... FOR, AT THAT MOMENT, THE METAL MASTER DESTROYS OIL WELLS IN THE HEART OF THE NEAR EAST...
BEHOLD! IT IS THE **METAL MASTER!**


THEN SPEEDS ON TO TOPPLE CONSTRUCTION IN AFRICA, AFFECT SHIPPING IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, AND UPROOT BRIDGES IN THE HEART OF EUROPE!
ONLY THE **METAL MASTER** COULD DO ALL THIS!


AND, BEFORE LONG, THE ENTIRE EARTH HAS SEEN AWESOME DEMONSTRATIONS OF THE SEEMINGLY ENDLESS POWER OF THE MENACE FROM ANOTHER GALAXY! NOT A HUMAN BREATHES ON EARTH WHO DOES NOT TREMBLE AT THE NAME...
THE **METAL MASTER!**

AND, AT THIS POINT, WE RETURN TO A DISHEARTENED RICK JONES...
HECK! THE WHOLE WORLD'S IN TROUBLE, AND THERE'S NOTHIN' A CAT MY AGE CAN DO ABOUT IT!
WHY NOT TAKE THE GENERAL'S ADVICE, RICK, AND JUST STICK TO YOUR EDUCATION! THAT'S WHAT THE REST OF US ARE DOING!
SURE, IT'S OKAY FOR HIM TO TALK! HE WAS NEVER THE HULK'S PARTNER! HOW CAN I GO BACK TO BEIN' AN ORDINARY KID AFTER SOMETHIN' LIKE THAT!
LOOK, THERE'S RICK JONES!
HEY, RICK-O! COME HERE-- WE'VE GOT SOMETHIN' TO SHOW YOU!
WAIT'LL YA SEE WHAT THE GANG'S BEEN DOIN'! YOU'LL FLIP, SON!
SORRY, DADDY-O! I AINT IN A FLIPPIN' MOOD!
COME ON, SOUR-PUSS, WHAT HAVE YA GOT TO LOSE?
AND SO, RICK ACCOMPANIES HIS FRIENDS AND FINDS...
WE ALL CHIPPED IN TO BUY THIS HAM RADIO! ISN'T IT COOL?
WE CAN TALK TO OTHER HAMS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY!
HEY! WADDAYA KNOW?!!
THAT'S IT! THE IDEA I'VE BEEN LOOKIN' FOR! IT'S PERFECT! THEY CAN'T STOP US ON ACCOUNT OF OUR AGE! AND WE CAN HELP THE ARMY, THE POLICE, EVERYBODY!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, RICK?
WITH A BUNCH OF CATS LIKE US, ALL OVER THE COUNTRY, KEEPIN' IN TOUCH BY RADIO, WE CAN HAVE THE GREATEST SET-UP IN THE WORLD! WE'LL FORM A CLUB -- CALL IT SOMETHIN' LIKE -- THE TEEN BRIGADE -- AND BE READY TO HELP OUT WHEREVER WE'RE NEEDED!
HEY, THE TEEN BRIGADE! IT SOUNDS NEAT!
REET! I'LL BUY IT!
AND SO, THE TEEN BRIGADE IS BORN! A BAND OF LOYAL TEEN-AGERS OF WHOM WE WILL SHORTLY HEAR MORE! BUT NOW, BACK TO THE HULK--
MINUTE AFTER MINUTE, HOUR AFTER HOUR, HIS MIGHTY, SEEMINGLY TIRELESS FISTS POUND AGAINST THE STONE WALL, CHIPPING IT AWAY BIT BY BIT, UNTIL--AT LAST--
I'M FREE!
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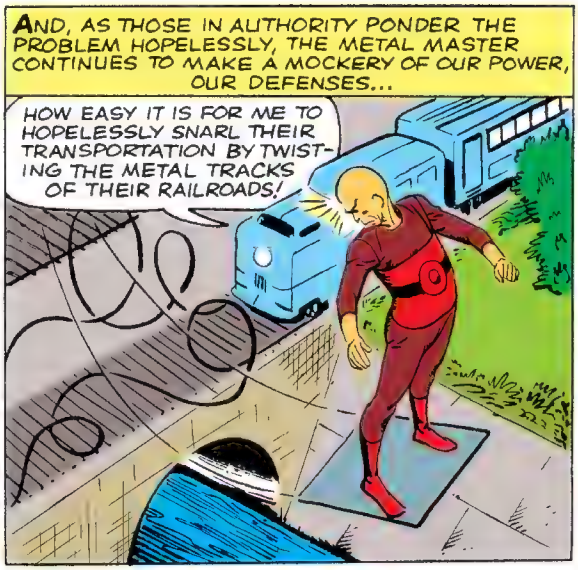
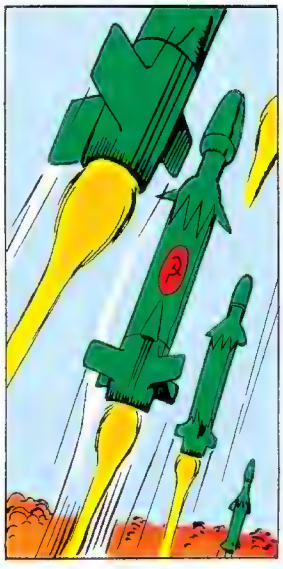
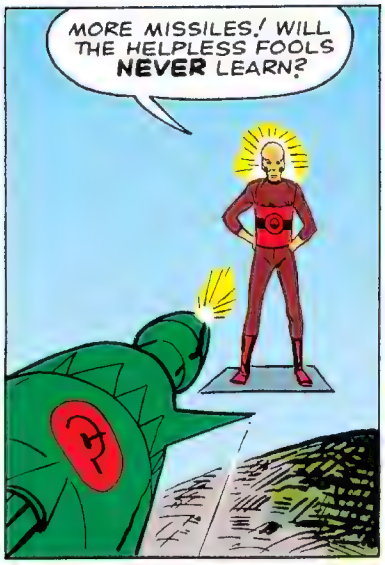
AND, NOT FAR AWAY...
STRANGE--WE STILL HAVEN'T MANAGED TO LOCATE BRUCE BANNER!
OH, DAD--IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO BRUCE, I-I--SOB--I NEVER REALIZED HE MEANT SO MUCH TO ME!
SUDDENLY...
GENERAL, THE HULK--HE'S ESCAPED!
WHAT?!! YOU MEAN HE BROKE OUT OF THOSE THICK CONCRETE WALLS?!! IT CAN'T BE--IT CAN'T!
FIRST THAT BLASTED METAL MASTER! THEN BANNER IS MISSING! NOW THE HULK IS FREE AGAIN! OF ALL THE BLANKETTY BLANK--!!!
OH, DAD--WHAT IF THE HULK HAS SOMEHOW CAPTURED BRUCE...
BUT, WHAT WOULD BETSY ROSS SAY IF SHE COULD SEE THE HULK AT THIS MOMENT, BACK IN HIS HIDDEN LAIR, AS HIS MASSIVE BODY IS BATHED BY BRUCE BANNER'S AWESOME RAY...?
IT-IT'S OVER...
THE RAY WORKED ALL RIGHT THIS TIME--BUT--I'VE BEEN USING IT TOO OFTEN--I-I'M TOO WEAK--
--CAN HARDLY STAND --EVERYTHING'S SPINNING 'ROUND--
CAN'T BLACK OUT NOW--MUST HOLD ON! MUST STAY AWAKE--GOT TO BEAT THE METAL MASTER! EARTH IN DANGER--CAN'T GIVE UP--
AND, AT THAT VERY MOMENT...
SO HE DOESN'T WANT ME AROUND ANYMORE! SO HE DOESN'T NEED ME! OKAY--SO WHO CARES! I'LL GET MY DUDS TOGETHER AND CLEAR OUT, ONCE AND FOR ALL!
RICK--RICK--HELP ME--
SUDDENLY SEEING THE MAN WHO HAD ONCE SAVED HIS LIFE --SEEING HOW HELPLESS HE IS--THE TEEN-AGER FORGETS HIS ANGER, AND HIS HURT, AND--
GOLLY, DOC, YOU'RE IN REAL BAD SHAPE! WHAT HAPPENED??
MY GAMMA RAY! USED IT--TOO OFTEN! WEAK --CAN'T STAND --OVERDOSE OF GAMMA RAYS--CAN'T TAKE IT--
GOOD OL' RICK--LOYAL RICK--ALWAYS HERE WHEN I NEED YOU--
WHAT A FOOL I WAS! I SHOULDA KNOWN THAT BRUCE BANNER ISN'T ALWAYS RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT THE HULK SAYS OR DOES!
14

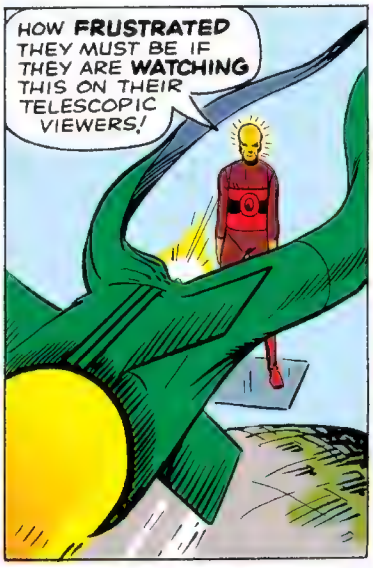
DOC, I'VE GOT TO GET YOU TO A HOSPITAL!
NO! NO TIME! I'VE THOUGHT OF A WAY TO BEAT THE METAL MASTER! BUT, NEED HELP! CAN'T DO IT ALONE!
WELL, GEE, WHAT CAN--? WAIT A SEC! I KNOW! YOU JUST TELL ME WHAT YOU NEED, DOC, AND MY TEEN BRIGADE WILL GO INTO ACTION!
TEEN BRIGADE--?
A SHORT TIME LATER, AFTER BEING SURE THAT BRUCE BANNER IS RESTING COMFORTABLY...
HERE'S THE PITCH, GANG! YOU'VE ALL HEARD OF DOCTOR BRUCE BANNER! WELL, HE'S GOT AN ANGLE ON HOW TO BEAT THE METAL MASTER, BUT IT'S UP TO US TO GET HIM THE EQUIPMENT HE NEEDS! NOW HERE'S WHAT WE WANT--
AND SO, EAGERLY, ENTHUSIASTICALLY, WITH ALL THE ENERGY OF TYPICAL AMERICAN TEEN-AGERS, THE NEWLY-FORMED TEEN BRIGADE RACES INTO ACTION!
WHAT ARE WE WAITIN' FOR?
LAST ONE BACK IS A ROTTEN EGG!
GANGWAY!
NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, AND WEST-- INTO EVERY CORNER OF THE UNITED STATES, THE TEEN BRIGADE RADIO THEIR MESSAGES! AND PARTS AND SUPPLIES START POURING IN FROM ALL OVER, IN A DESPERATE STRUGGLE TO STOP THE METAL MASTER!
JUST REACHED PITTSBURGH! OUR CONDENSERS ARE ON THE WAY!
HERE'S THE TUBES AND CIRCUITS RICK ASKED FOR--FROM SEATTLE!
BLUEPRINTS ON THE WAY! OVER AND OUT!
AND, ONCE MORE, ALONE AND UNSUSPECTED, A SLENDER FIGURE STANDS IN FRONT OF THE GAMMA RAY MACHINE...
CAN'T AFFORD TO REST ANY LONGER! IT'S NOW OR NEVER!
IT'S WORKING!
AHHH-- I CAN FEEL THE POWER SURGING THRU MY BODY! I'M STRONG AGAIN! I'M THE HULK AGAIN!
AND SO OUR GRIPPING TALE GATHERS MOMENTUM AS IT RACES TOWARDS ITS INEVITABLE CLIMAX! FOR THE METAL MASTER IS STILL AT LARGE, AND EARTH HAS STILL FOUND NO WAY TO COPE WITH HIS DIRE MENACE!
WE'VE TRIED EVERY WEAPON-- EVERY SCHEME-- NOTHING CAN STOP THE METAL MASTER!
THE PEOPLE ARE GROWING PANICKY! SOMETHING MUST BE DONE SOON! BUT WHAT??


AND, AS THOSE IN AUTHORITY PONDER THE PROBLEM HOPELESSLY, THE METAL MASTER CONTINUES TO MAKE A MOCKERY OF OUR POWER, OUR DEFENSES...
HOW EASY IT IS FOR ME TO HOPELESSLY SNARL THEIR TRANSPORTATION BY TWISTING THE METAL TRACKS OF THEIR RAILROADS!

NO NATION FAILS TO FEEL THE METAL MASTER'S STING!
ATTENTION, COMRADES! LAUNCH MISSILES! THE METAL MASTER MUST BE DESTROYED!




MORE MISSILES! WILL THE HELPLESS FOOLS NEVER LEARN?


HOW FRUSTRATED THEY MUST BE IF THEY ARE WATCHING THIS ON THEIR TELESCOPIC VIEWERS!

AT A MERE MENTAL COMMAND FROM ME, EACH MISSILE SEPARATES AND PASSES HARMLESSLY AROUND ME!

THAT ROAR BEHIND ME--? AH, SO NOW THEY SEND MANNED AIRCRAFT TO BATTLE ME!

BUT ALL I NEED DO IS STREAK THRU EACH ONE, MELTING IT AS I TOUCH IT!
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BY MERELY MELTING THE ENGINE SECTION OF EACH PLANE, I PERMIT THE HELPLESS PILOTS TO BAIL OUT AND FLOAT TO SAFETY!
IT IS NOT THAT I AM MERCIFUL! BUT I SHALL WANT EVERY EARTHLING ALIVE, SO THAT THERE WILL BE MANY TO SERVE ME! AND NOW, I SHALL SIMPLY LOSE MYSELF IN A BANK OF CLOUDS, FOR I GROW WEARY OF THIS CONFLICT... IT IS LIKE BATTLING CHILDREN!
THE NEXT TIME I APPEAR, I SHALL BE THRU TOYING WITH THESE PUNY HUMANS! WHEN NEXT THEY SEE ME, I SHALL HAVE COME TO TAKE POSSESSION OF ALL MANKIND!
BUT, IN AN OLD WAREHOUSE IN THE SOUTHWEST, SOME OF THOSE "PUNY HUMANS" ARE PLOTTING, AND PLANNING, AND WORKING TO DEFEAT THE UNSUSPECTING ALIEN!
WE BROUGHT ALL THE EQUIPMENT RICK ASKED FOR! HE'S LOCKED INSIDE NOW!
WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE HE'S DOIN' WITH IT? AND WHERE'S DOCTOR BANNER?
DOCTOR BANNER TOO IS INSIDE --BUT NOT IN THE FORM WHICH THE TEEN BRIGADE MIGHT EXPECT!
IT'S A GOOD THING YOU REMEMBER MOST OF BRUCE BANNER'S SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE, HULK--
SHUDDUP AND LET ME THINK, BRAT!
THERE! THE MACHINE IS FINISHED! NOW OPEN THAT DOOR AND GIT OUTTA MY WAY!
Y-YOU BET, HULK!
NOW TO FIND THAT FLYIN' CREEP!
L-LOOK! IT'S-- IT'S THE HULK!
BUT HOW DID HE GET IN THERE ??
AND WHAT WAS HE CARRYIN'?? IT LOOKED LIKE SOME SORTA GUN!
IF HE'S LOOKIN' FOR THE METAL MASTER, HE'S WASTIN' HIS TIME! THAT GUN WON'T DO ANY GOOD!

MINUTES LATER, A TEEN BRIGADE LOOKOUT SEES--
IT'S HIM! IT'S THE METAL MASTER! HEADED DUE NORTH-NORTHWEST!

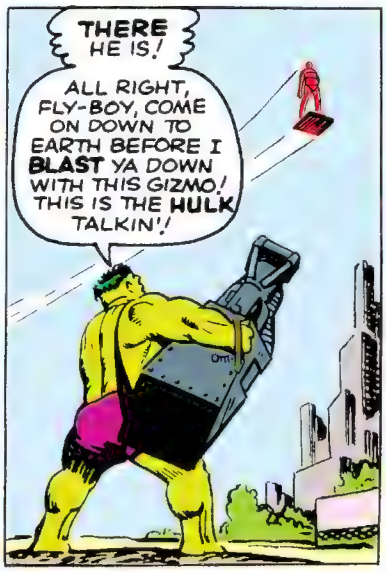
WITHIN SECONDS, THE MESSAGE IS RELAYED TO TEEN BRIGADE RADIO POSTS THRUOUT THE AREA...
ROGER! I'LL GET THAT SCOOP TO RICK JONES ON THE DOUBLE! OVER AND OUT!

AND, FINALLY...
HULK! THE METAL MASTER HAS BEEN SIGHTED APPROACHING WASHINGTON, D.C.!
IT'S ABOUT TIME!

NOW STAND BACK, BRAT! I GOT ME A LITTLE TRAVELIN' TO DO!

THE METAL MASTER MUST BE FIGURIN' ON TAKIN' OVER THE GOVERNMENT NOW!
BUT THE HULK'S GOT A FEW OTHER PLANS FOR 'IM!

AND, ON THE GROUND BELOW, CARLOADS OF EXCITED TEEN-AGERS CONVERGE ON THE NATION'S CAPITAL!
C'MON--WE DON'T WANNA MISS ANY OF THIS!
BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO BRUCE BANNER, RICK?
HE MUSTA BUILT THAT GUN FOR THE HULK! NOW WE'LL SEE SOME ACTION!


THERE HE IS!
ALL RIGHT, FLY-BOY, COME ON DOWN TO EARTH BEFORE I BLAST YA DOWN WITH THIS GIZMO! THIS IS THE HULK TALKIN'!

THE HULK! GOOD! NOW I SHALL DESTROY YOU ONCE AND FOR ALL-- WITH YOUR OWN WEAPON!

NO MATTER HOW POWERFUL THAT GUN IS, THE METAL OF WHICH IT IS MADE IS SUBJECT TO MY EVERY COMMAND!
AND SO, FAREWELL, HULK! FOR IT SHALL NOW EXPLODE RIGHT IN YOUR ARM!
YOU FAILED! YOU CAN'T CONTROL THIS HUNK OF METAL!
SEE? NOTHIN' HAPPENED TO IT! AND NOTHIN'S GONNA HAPPEN!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! THERE IS NO TYPE OF METAL I CANNOT CONTROL! I-I'LL GET CLOSER TO IT!
THAT'S WHAT I WANT! COME REAL CLOSE!
NOW!
NOTHING IS HAPPENING!! BUT--IT CAN'T BE! IT CAN'T!
I'M USING ALL THE MENTAL POWER AT MY COMMAND! IT HAS TO EXPLODE! I COMMAND IT TO!
I'LL GET CLOSER STILL! THE MENTAL ENERGY I AM GENERATING IS ENOUGH TO LEVEL AN ENTIRE CITY! IT MUST EXPLODE!
I KNEW IT! YOU AINT ALL YOU'RE CRACKED UP TO BE! YOU'RE A PHONY! A WEAK, BRAINLESS, UGLY PHONY! DO YA HEAR ME?? I SAY YOU'RE JUST A BIG ZERO!
YOU MUST EXPLODE! EXPLODE! EXPLODE!

MEANWHILE, UNAWARE OF WHAT IS TAKING PLACE, GENERAL ROSS STILL PACES ANGRILY IN HIS ROOM...

WE'VE **GOT** TO FIND BANNER! HE'S THE MOST BRILLIANT WEAPONS EXPERT IN THE COUNTRY! HE'S **GOT** TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING TO BEAT THE METAL MASTER!

I'VE CALLED EVERY HOSPITAL! EVEN SOB THE MORGUE--

GENERAL! A REPORT'S JUST IN FROM HEADQUARTERS! THE **HULK** AND THE **METAL MASTER** ARE FACE TO FACE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF WASHINGTON, D.C.!

DON'T JUST **STAND** THERE, MAN! HAVE MY JET PREPARED FOR FLIGHT!

I'VE GOT TO REACH THE SCENE! GOT TO TAKE CHARGE! THEY'RE PROBABLY TRYING TO DECIDE WHICH OF THEM WILL TAKE OVER THIS NATION!

DAD--BE CAREFUL!

AFTER A RECORD-BREAKING CROSS-COUNTRY JET FLIGHT, "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS TAKES COMMAND OF THE ASSEMBLED MISSILE STRIKING FORCE, AND...

ALL UNITS, **ADVANCE!** THIS IS THE **SHOWDOWN!**

MEANWHILE, FOR LONG, SILENT MINUTES, THE METAL MASTER HAS HOVERED OVER THE **HULK**, UNABLE TO BELIEVE THAT HE HAS FAILED AT LAST, UNTIL...

ALL RIGHT! I LET YA STAY THERE AND TREMBLE LONG ENOUGH!

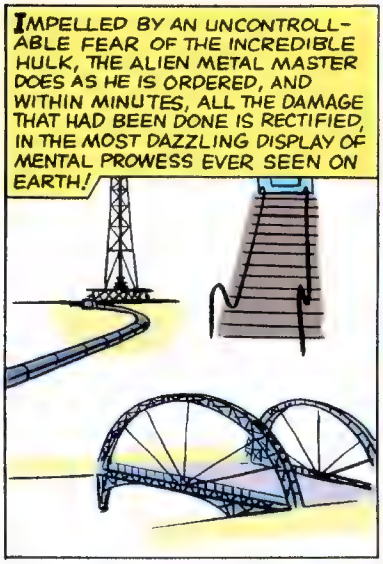
NOW IT'S **MY** TURN! **HEY!**

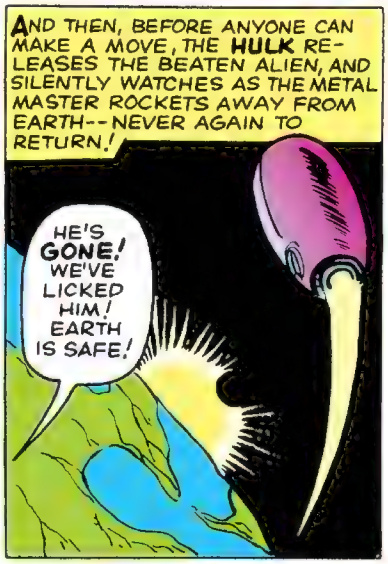
NO! ONE LAST CHANCE--I'LL STRIKE HIM WITH THE STEEL PLATE I'VE BEEN STANDING ON! AT LEAST, I CAN STILL CONTROL **THAT!**

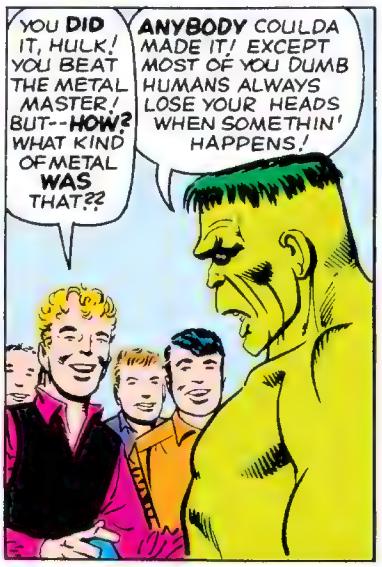
GOTCHA! YOU DIDN'T THINK THAT LITTLE PIECE OF TIN COULD HURT ME, DID YA??!

THAT FIST! THAT ARM! DON'T! DON'T STRIKE ME! I'LL DO ANYTHING-- ANYTHING! BUT DON'T HIT ME!
ALL RIGHT, COWARD, I'LL GIVE YA A CHANCE! MAKE EVERYTHING THE WAY IT WAS BEFORE YA MESSED UP ALL THE METAL ON EARTH! AND I MEAN NOW!

TREMBLINGLY, THE METAL MASTER CONCENTRATES AS HE SUMMONS UP ALL OF HIS VAST, AWESOME MENTAL POWER, SENDING BOUNDLESS WAVES OF PURE THOUGHT TO EVERY PART OF THE PLANET!
AND NO TRICKS, OR ELSE!

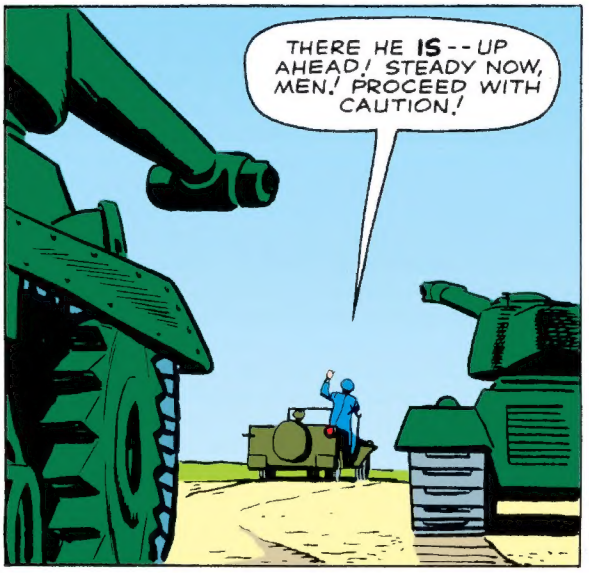

IMPELLED BY AN UNCONTROLLABLE FEAR OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK, THE ALIEN METAL MASTER DOES AS HE IS ORDERED, AND WITHIN MINUTES, ALL THE DAMAGE THAT HAD BEEN DONE IS RECTIFIED, IN THE MOST DAZZLING DISPLAY OF MENTAL PROWESS EVER SEEN ON EARTH!


AND THEN, BEFORE ANYONE CAN MAKE A MOVE, THE HULK RELEASES THE BEATEN ALIEN, AND SILENTLY WATCHES AS THE METAL MASTER ROCKETS AWAY FROM EARTH--NEVER AGAIN TO RETURN!
HE'S GONE! WE'VE LICKED HIM! EARTH IS SAFE!


YOU DID IT, HULK! YOU BEAT THE METAL MASTER! BUT--HOW? WHAT KIND OF METAL WAS THAT??
ANYBODY COULDA MADE IT! EXCEPT MOST OF YOU DUMB HUMANS ALWAYS LOSE YOUR HEADS WHEN SOMETHIN' HAPPENS!

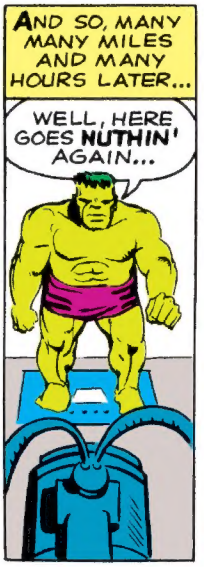
IT WASN'T ANY KIND OF METAL AT ALL! JUST PLASTIC AND CARDBOARD! I PAINTED IT TO LOOK LIKE METAL! IT WAS A BLUFF THAT PAID OFF!
HAH! LOOK--THE WHOLE THING'S A PHONY! IT'S ALL HOLLOW! BUT THE METAL MASTER NEVER SUSPECTED!

I GUESS YOU KIDS DESERVE MOST OF THE CREDIT! IF YOU HADN'T ROUNDED UP ALL THE JUNK I NEEDED TO MAKE THAT GUN, IT WOULDA BEEN TOO LATE!
GOSH! IMAGINE THE HULK COMPLIMENTING US! WOWEE!
HOLD ON! WE'VE GOT COMPANY COMIN'! THE ARMY'S MOVIN' IN!


THERE HE IS--UP AHEAD! STEADY NOW, MEN! PROCEED WITH CAUTION!

HANG ON, BRAT-- WE'RE HEADIN' HOME! I GOT NO TIME FOR ANY EXPLAININ' NOW!

BEFORE GENERAL ROSS CAN ISSUE AN ORDER, THE TEEN BRIGADE TELLS HIM WHAT HAS TAKEN PLACE, AND...
--AND THAT'S HOW IT HAPPENED, SIR! THE HULK BEAT THE METAL MASTER-- HE SAVED THE WHOLE EARTH!
WELL, I'LL BE--!!!


AND SO, MANY MANY MILES AND MANY HOURS LATER...
WELL, HERE GOES NUTHIN' AGAIN...

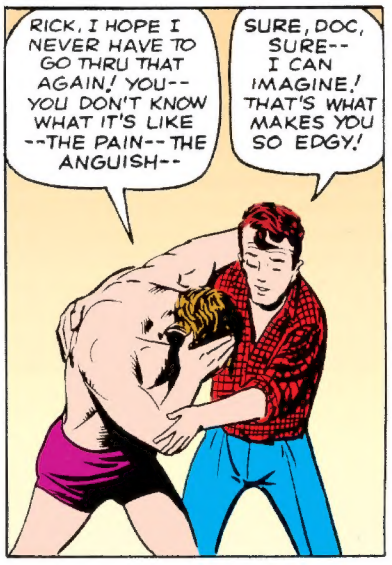
WHA-WHAT HAPPENED?? I DIDN'T CHANGE!
I'M STILL THE HULK!

WHAT DID I DO WRONG? EVERYTHING'S SET RIGHT-- EVERYTHING'S CONNECTED--

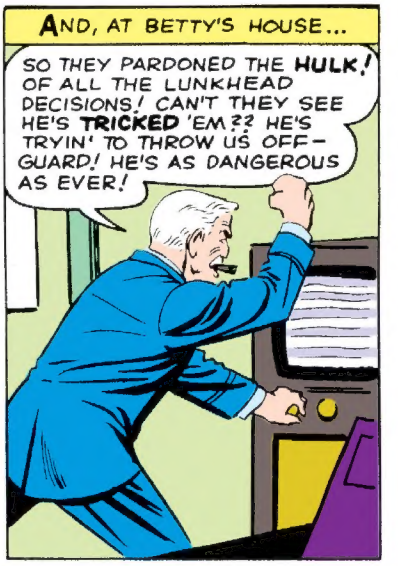
BANNER ALWAYS FELT THAT THE BLASTED MACHINE SHOULDN'T BE USED TOO MUCH! THE GAMMA RAYS ARE TOO STRONG-- TOO HARD TO CONTROL!

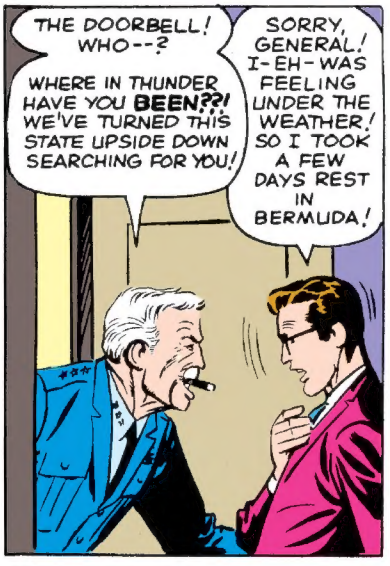
I ALWAYS HATED BANNER'S WEAK BODY--ALWAYS WISHED I COULD STAY AS THE HULK! BUT NOW-- TO BE THE HULK FOREVER-- TO ALWAYS BE HUNTED-- FEARED--

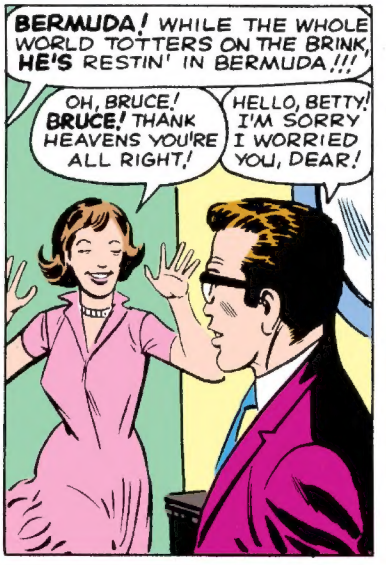
WHILE, UNAWARE OF BRUCE BANNER AND THE HULK'S PLIGHT, BETTY ROSS CONTINUES HER SEEMINGLY HOPELESS QUEST...
YEAH, LADY, DOC BANNER USED TO BUY HIS PAPERS HERE... BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN 'IM IN WEEKS!
LOOK, THERE'S BETTY ROSS, THE GENERAL'S DAUGHTER!
YEAH--SHE'S BEEN ASKING AROUND FOR DOC BANNER FOR DAYS! MEBBE WE'D BETTER TELL RICK!
THEN, AT A TEEN BRIGADE RADIO POST...
CAN YOU REACH RICK, CHARLIE? GOT A MESSAGE FOR HIM!
WAS JUST GONNA CALL HIM MYSELF! GOT SOME BIG NEWS FROM WASHINGTON!
AND, IN THE HULK'S SECRET LAIR...
AM I GONNA HAVE TO STAY HIDDEN IN THIS CAVE ALL MY LIFE??!
HULK! GREAT NEWS! YOU'VE GOTTEN A PARDON! BECAUSE YOU DEFEATED THE METAL MASTER!
A PARDON?!! IS THAT THE BEST THEY CAN DO?? I SAVE THE WHOLE BLAMED PLANET AND ALL THEY CAN DO IS PARDON ME!! MISERABLE, UNGRATEFUL HUMANS!
WHAT GOOD IS A PARDON GONNA DO ME NOW?? IT'S TOO LATE! EVERYTHING'S TOO LATE!
HULK--DON'T! T-TAKE IT EASY, HULK!
TAKE IT EASY??! HA HA--HE SAYS TAKE IT EASY!!
I'LL SHOW YA HOW I'LL TAKE IT EASY!
I'LL SHOW THE WHOLE CRUMMY WORLD!
I'LL--I'LL --WHA--??
I'M NORMAL AGAIN! I'M BRUCE BANNER!
THE RAY DID WORK! IT JUST HAD A DELAYED REACTION!
23


RICK, I HOPE I NEVER HAVE TO GO THRU THAT AGAIN! YOU-- YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE --THE PAIN-- THE ANGUISH--
SURE, DOC, SURE-- I CAN IMAGINE! THAT'S WHAT MAKES YOU SO EDGY!

LATER, AFTER BRUCE BANNER HAS RESTED A WHILE...
BY THE WAY, DOC, I MEANT TO TELL YOU-- BETTY ROSS HAS BEEN LOOKIN' FOR YOU! SHE'S REAL WORRIED ABOUT YOU BEIN' MISSIN' SO LONG!
POOR KID! I'LL GO TO SEE HER RIGHT AWAY!

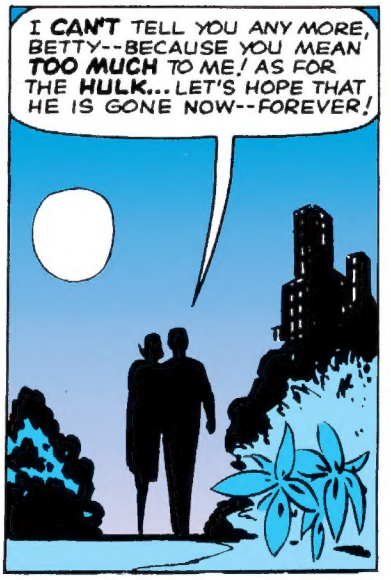

AND, AT BETTY'S HOUSE...
SO THEY PARDONED THE HULK! OF ALL THE LUNKHEAD DECISIONS! CAN'T THEY SEE HE'S TRICKED 'EM?? HE'S TRYIN' TO THROW US OFF-GUARD! HE'S AS DANGEROUS AS EVER!

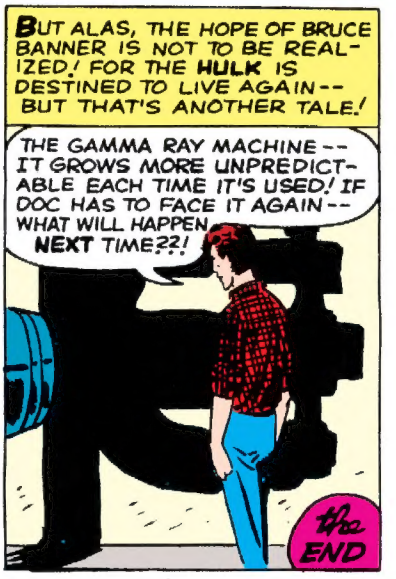

THE DOORBELL! WHO--?
WHERE IN THUNDER HAVE YOU BEEN??! WE'VE TURNED THIS STATE UPSIDE DOWN SEARCHING FOR YOU!
SORRY, GENERAL! I-EH-WAS FEELING UNDER THE WEATHER! SO I TOOK A FEW DAYS REST IN BERMUDA!


BERMUDA! WHILE THE WHOLE WORLD TOTTERS ON THE BRINK, HE'S RESTIN' IN BERMUDA!!!
OH, BRUCE! BRUCE! THANK HEAVENS YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!
HELLO, BETTY! I'M SORRY I WORRIED YOU, DEAR!

"I'M SORRY I WORRIED YOU, DEAR!" BAH! HOW A DAUGHTER OF MINE COULD EVER FALL FOR SUCH A SPINELESS MILKSOP!
SOMETIMES I THINK SHE'D BE BETTER OFF MOONIN' OVER THE HULK! AT LEAST HE'S GOT A BACKBONE!

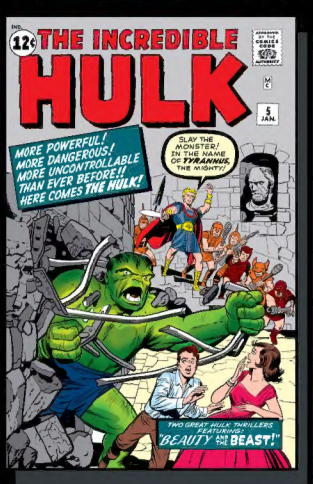
BRUCE, I KNOW THERE WAS MORE TO YOUR ABSENCE THAN THE FACT THAT YOU DIDN'T FEEL WELL! I-I HAVE THE STRANGEST FEELING THAT THERE IS SOME CONNECTION BETWEEN YOU AND THE HULK! WHY WON'T YOU CONFIDE IN ME? DON'T I--MEAN ENOUGH TO YOU??
MEAN ENOUGH??
24


I CAN'T TELL YOU ANY MORE, BETTY--BECAUSE YOU MEAN TOO MUCH TO ME! AS FOR THE HULK... LET'S HOPE THAT HE IS GONE NOW--FOREVER!


BUT ALAS, THE HOPE OF BRUCE BANNER IS NOT TO BE REALIZED! FOR THE HULK IS DESTINED TO LIVE AGAIN-- BUT THAT'S ANOTHER TALE!
THE GAMMA RAY MACHINE-- IT GROWS MORE UNPREDICTABLE EACH TIME IT'S USED! IF DOC HAS TO FACE IT AGAIN-- WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT TIME??!
the END

12¢
THE INCREDIBLE
HULK
2
JULY
"THE TERROR OF THE TOAD MEN!"
GENERAL! IT'S THEM! THE TOAD MEN! THEY'RE ATTACKING!
IT IS TOO LATE FOR THE HUMANS TO STOP US NOW! NOTHING CAN STOP US!
NOTHING, EXCEPT... THE HULK!!

12¢
THE INCREDIBLE
HULK
3
SEPT.
I CAN'T CONTROL HIM ANY MORE! THE HULK HAS GONE BERSERK!
SEE THE HULK BANISHED TO OUTER SPACE... TRAPPED BY THE RINGMASTER--AND OTHER THRILLS WITH THE MOST EXCITING, ORIGINAL CHARACTER IN COMICS!
LOOK!! NOTHING CAN STOP HIM NOW! HE CAN FLY!!


12¢
THE INCREDIBLE
HULK
5
JAN.
MORE POWERFUL! MORE DANGEROUS! MORE UNCONTROLLABLE THAN EVER BEFORE!! HERE COMES THE HULK!
SLAY THE MONSTER! IN THE NAME OF TYRANNUS, THE MIGHTY!
TWO GREAT HULK THRILLERS FEATURING: "BEAUTY AND THE BEAST!"

12¢
THE INCREDIBLE
HULK
6
MAR.
EVEN YOUR LIMITLESS STRENGTH CANNOT SAVE YOU FROM ME, HULK! ALL THE METAL ON EARTH IS MINE TO COMMAND, FOR I AM-- THE METAL MASTER!
IF THE HULK CAN'T HANDLE THE METAL MASTER, IT COULD MEAN THE END OF THE HUMAN RACE!
A FULL-LENGTH EPIC SUPER-THRILLER!

THE MARVEL MASTERWORKS PROUDLY PRESENT THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS COMICS AND SUPER HEROES FROM THEIR VERY BEGINNINGS IN A SERIES OF PAINSTAKINGLY RESTORED ARCHIVAL VOLUMES.

MARVEL

COLLECTING *THE INCREDIBLE HULK* #1-6